# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-87-226
Tuesday
24 November 1987

# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-87-226* *24 November 1987*

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## 24 November Middle East and South Asia Review

LD241427 [Editorial Report]

### Iran-Iraq War

*Military Activity*—Iranian planes raided Iraqi military targets in the Zubaydah region 24 November, inflicting "heavy casualties and damage," IRNA reported. While Tehran radio stated that an Iraqi plane was shot down over Iran the same morning, an Iraqi spokesman denied this in a statement to INA.

An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA likewise denied Iran's claims of successes in the "Nasr-9" offensive against Iraqi forces in the Haj 'Umran area. Iraqi forces were not involved in fighting in the area, the spokesman said, but what occurred was a clash between Iranian forces and the Iranian National Liberation Army (INLA). He claimed that the INLA attacked an Iranian brigade near Haj 'Umran, killing over 200 Iranian government troops.

An Iranian communique on the "Nasr-9" operation said the Iraqis were using "mercenary counterrevolutionary elements" in the Haj 'Umran sector, adding that these "hireling" forces were "crushed" and 150 of them were killed. The communique, which was broadcast by Tehran radio, also claimed that Iraqi losses had risen to 1,200 killed and 2,800 injured. As for Iran's "Nasr-8" offensive in the Mawat area, IRNA claimed that another 450 Iraqis were killed or wounded in unsuccessful counterattacks 23 November.

*Iranian Oil Exports*—INA cited reports from Paris that Iraqi air strikes have reduced Iran's oil exports by one million barrels a day over the last 12 months.

*Iranian Missiles*—Iraq's acquisition of missiles from "global arrogance" has spurred Iran to make noticeable progress in manufacturing powerful missiles which cut Iraq's access to the Gulf, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in remarks reported by IRNA.

### Iraq

*President's 1985 Speech*—Voice of the Masses radio broadcast without explanation the "text" of a speech by President Saddam Husayn to a Ba'th Party National Command meeting on 21 July 1985. The speech focused on the PLO and Arab affairs, and included expressions of support for improved Jordanian-Palestinian relations and a reference to "flexibility" in Israel's position. On relations with Syria, Saddam Husayn stressed the need to prevent further "deterioration" and to attain a "minimum level" of understanding.

*Syrian Visitors*—Members of the Syrian trade delegation in Baghdad told WAKH that their visit marks the beginning of "normalization" and a return to "fraternal" relations between the two countries. The Syrians are attending a 2-day meeting of the council of Arab chambers of commerce in the Iraqi capital, WAKH noted, adding that Libyan and Egyptian delegations are also participating.

### Tunisia

An official communique carried by Tunis radio announced that security forces have apprehended "a gang of malefactors" who were plotting to assassinate "a number of officials" and to attack civilian and security installations. After keeping the gang under surveillance since September, police confiscated its weapons, ammunition, explosives, and radio equipment in a 16 November raid. Tunisian sources cited by MENA disclosed that the arrested members of the gang include "military personnel conspiring against the state's security."

The communique announcing the plot was issued at the end of the first meeting of the newly-formed Council for National Security, chaired by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Tunis radio noted. The Council includes the ministers of defense, interior, and foreign affairs, as well as the chiefs of staff and military security, according to TAP.

In other internal developments, the State Security Court heard further appeals from men who received prison terms in the Islamic Tendency Movement case, Tunis radio reported. The radio also noted that the Tunisian Parliament recently passed measures that were "urgently requested by the people" to make the penal code protect the liberties and dignity of citizens. The amendments to the penal code provide for stricter limits on the length of time police can detain suspects and enable persons in custody to ask for a medical examination.

### Libya-Egypt

JANA's Arab affairs editor dismissed Egyptian allegations that Libya supported and instigated the group of 15 Egyptians who have been referred to trial for sabotage and other charges. The editor said Libya is accustomed to hearing the "ready-made" charges prepared by the Egyptian regime and issued every time there are signs of popular revolution in Egypt.

### Western Sahara

An SDAR communique cited by Algiers radio stated that Saharan demonstrators in El Aioun chanted national slogans and called for the evacuation of Moroccan forces during the UN commission's visit. Moroccan forces reportedly carried out a campaign of arrests among the Saharan inhabitants of the town. In contrast, Rabat radio said the commission saw the "tranquility and security" of life in El Aioun.

### Sudan-Ethiopia

The UAE paper *Al-Bayan* reported that a large-scale battle between the two countries is imminent, according to WAKH. Sudanese officials cited by the paper spoke of large Ethiopian military concentrations on the border with Sudan, and indicated that the latter has decided to provide military assistance to rebels fighting the Ethiopian regime.

### Afghanistan

An 18 November article in the *Saudi Gazette* cited a report from Peshawar that mujahidin commanded by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud recently captured "the most significant Russian base in northern Afghanistan." The mujahidin captured 600 Soviet soldiers and over 1,000 DRA forces at the base in Badakhsan. A brother of DRA leader Najibullah was captured by Mas'ud's forces, the report claimed.

AFP noted "unconfirmed reports" in Islamabad that Najibullah's brother Siddiqullah has "defected" to the mujahidin, along with former PDPA Politburo member Mahmud Barialay.

### Saudi Arabia

A "responsible source" at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth denied an Iranian official's assertion that OPEC member states are drafting an agreement to raise oil prices this December and that Saudi Arabia is considering raising its prices, SPA reported. The source stressed that the Kingdom will not agree to any price rise before the end of 1988 unless an increase becomes "acceptable" because of a real increase in demand.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Soviet Council of Ministers Cables 'Arafat

*JN231951 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Announcer-read "text" of message by the Soviet Council of Ministers to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people—date not given]

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman:

On the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, we would like to convey to the PLO and through it to the Palestinian people our heartfelt congratulations. We wish you success in the just struggle to attain legitimate national rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

With the feeling of sincere solidarity and sympathy, the Soviet Union follows the Palestinians' struggle under the PLO leadership, the legitimate and sole representative, against the Israeli occupation of their territories and the usurpation of their rights and dignity. The Palestinians struggle to reach a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute and to solve the Palestine question, which we regard as a fundamental question, in accordance with the UN Charter and resolutions.

This road passes through the convening of an international conference in which all the concerned sides will participate, including the PLO and the UN Security Council permanent member countries. The world knows well and assesses the PLO's role in the international efforts being made to prepare for this conference in accordance with the 18th PNC session resolutions. Whether the conference is convened at all will depend on joint efforts by those interested in a lasting and just peace in the Middle East, close inter-Arab cooperation, and the unified ranks of the Palestinian national movement.

The Soviet Union will continue to present comprehensive assistance to the Palestinian people and their just struggle.

### Possibility of Syrian-PLO Meeting Said 'Good'

*PM230925 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Nov 87 p 1*

[Zaki Musa report: "Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh to *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*: Syrian-Palestinian Understanding and Imminent Al-Asad-'Arafat Meeting"]

[Text] A prominent Palestinian leader has declared that the efforts being made to mend the rift in Syrian-PLO relations are about to bear fruit. Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and DFLP deputy secretary general, declared that the possibility of an official Syrian-Palestinian meeting before the end of this month is good and that a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and [PLO leader] Yasir 'Arafat before the end of the year is not a remote possibility.

During a telephone interview conducted by *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* from London with him in Tunis, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, who occupies the post of head of the PLO Information and Culture Department, indicated that contacts made this month and during the extraordinary Arab summit held last week in Amman increased the chance of normalizing Syrian-Palestinian relations.

'Abd Rabbuh told *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* that a number of political issues concerning the two sides were discussed and that at the end of the summit our Syrian brothers had expressed their support and stressed the PLO's role and the need for its participation on an equal footing with the other parties in any conference convened to discuss the Palestinian problem, especially an international conference.

The PLO Executive Committee member added: The agreement reached in Algeria between the Palestinian factions and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri on solving the problem of the camps is being applied positively. This proves that there is a genuine relaxation in Palestinian-Syrian relations, as well as a possibility of convening a meeting and making it a success.

Commenting on the meetings held on the sidelines of the summit between Syrian and Palestinian officials in Amman, 'Abd Rabbuh said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] shook hands and that this was like "breaking the ice" between the two parties. A number of meetings were also held with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Minister of State Nasir Qaddur, and other officials.

Yasir 'Arafat and President Hafiz al-Asad shook hands at the summit for the first time in years on their way to the conference room. Yasir 'Arafat confirmed this to a news agency reporter. Furthermore, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, embraced and met on more than one occasion.

### PLO Insists on Independent Delegation

*PM231349 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Nov 87 p 1*

[Zaki Musa report: "Two Palestinian Officials Tell *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*: The Phrase 'on Equal Footing' Means PLO Participation With Independent Delegation"]

[Text] Two prominent Palestinian officials have emphasized that the phrase "on an equal footing" in relation to PLO participation in an international conference on the

Middle East means PLO participation in the conference with an independent delegation, just like any other state concerned with the conflict in the region.

Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), Fatah Central Committee member and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has told *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* that this matter will not be a point of disagreement between us and the Jordanian brothers, because the Jordanians will not incorporate the Palestinians any more than the Palestinians will incorporate the Jordanians. It is only natural that we should be together as brothers, striving together to wrest our rights from the other hostile parties which refuse to recognize our people's legitimate rights.

Abu Jihad added: The main problem receiving our undivided attention is that we should not adapt to what the United States and Israel want. We should concentrate on what we want through emphasis on a Palestinian presence in the form of an independent Palestinian delegation or representatives like the rest of the parties concerned with the conflict and represented at the conference.

In the same vein, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, who was a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Amman emergency summit conference, said that "this matter was neither raised nor debated by the Jordanian brothers. The PNC session in Algiers had used the very same phrase, which means PLO participation on an equal footing with all the delegations attending the conference and not just with one party."

'Abd Rabbuh added: "It is not in Jordan's interest to reduce its own representation to half-representation. Furthermore, the summit's clear concept is that there can be no international conference without the PLO and without its playing a role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This negates all other interpretations and views."

'Abd Rabbuh told *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* that the phrase "participation of all parties concerned with the conflict including the PLO as the sole legitimate representative" means, in plain Arabic, participation "on an equal footing with the other parties to the conflict."

Asked if this concept were discussed during the meeting between King Husayn of Jordan and Yasir 'Arafat on the periphery of the summit, 'Abd Rabbuh said: "This matter was not discussed at all. The Jordanian side concentrated on the question of a joint delegation and confederation instead of an independent state, whereas the Palestinian side insisted on an independent representation and an independent state. The two sides did not achieve tangible results in this respect."

### Fatah Uprising Claims Bethlehem Operation

*JN232005 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Damascus, 23 Nov (SANA)—A military spokesman for the Internal Forces of the Fatah Uprising Movement has said that a revolutionary of the martyr 'Abd al-Jawad Musa Abu Shawish group yesterday firebombed a Zionist military vehicle carrying a number of soldiers and settlers as it cruised the Palestinian city of Bethlehem. The spokesman said the attack burned the vehicle and killed or wounded its occupants.

The enemy radio admitted the operation and the wounding of just one soldier, minimizing casualties as usual. Enemy forces later cordoned off the area and mounted a search for the revolutionary who managed to return safely to base. Meanwhile, enemy forces arrested a number of the townspeople.

## Chad

### Embassy in Sudan Denies Reports on Garang

*AB231418 Paris AFP in French 1327 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Nov (AFP)—The Chadian Embassy in Khartoum today denied that southern Sudanese rebel leader John Garang has ever visited Ndjamena. It also accused Libya of authoring this "rumor," which aims at "causing upheavals between Chad and Sudan." In a communique, the Embassy described reports concerning a recent visit by Colonel Garang to Chad, at the invitation of Chadian officials, as "unfounded."

"Neither Col Garang nor a delegation from his movement has ever visited Chad," the communique stressed. It added that Chad does not interfere in the internal affairs of Sudan, "in accordance with the principles and conventions of the OAU, the United Nations, and the Nonaligned Movement."

It should be recalled that Chad accuses Sudan of tolerating the presence of Libyan or pro-Libyan forces in Darfur Province, which borders Chad. According to Ndjamena, these troops are preparing to attack Chadian forces. Khartoum denies these allegations. Some ministers have on several occasions referred to incursions of "bandits wearing Chadian Army uniforms" into Sudanese territory.

### Commentary Warns of Existence of 'Arab Plot'

*AB212225 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Station commentary]

[Text] On 11 November, *Al-Mustaqbal*, the Lebanese newspaper published in Paris, featured an offensive commentary concerning Chad. The article at first evoked the concern of an Arab Maghreb country over the United States' supply of Stinger missiles to Chad. It added that this could threaten security in the region and undermine the peace process initiated by the OAU. According to the newspaper, this country could reconsider its position of neutrality and moderation with regard to what it terms Chadian squabbles, should the United States supply Chad with the missiles. The author of the article thus wonders whether the whitewashing of houses in Ndjamena on the eve of the [words indistinct] summit will not be blackened by bomb craters. As you can see, Chad is the victim of the partisan and sometimes vulgar attitude of some countries.

Throughout this article, one can once more note the following fact: The common front of a cluster of Arab countries against Chad established by Tripoli continues. Furthermore, there is a total lack of logic in their reasoning, which is an outcome of the racist motivations that have driven the author of this article. How can Stinger missiles threaten security in the region and undermine the peace process initiated by the OAU while Tripoli is deploying equipment a thousand times more sophisticated? Are the chemical weapons and the Tupolev and MIG aircraft that have sometimes flown over Ndjamena via some neighboring countries a danger to the security of the region?

On the other hand, according to some sources, the Libyan regime flew a certain type of aircraft to Ouadi Doum. This type is the most modern Soviet fighter aircraft, the (?T-82), which is found in only a very few of the Warsaw Pact member states. This equipment was hastily evacuated by Soviet technicians 48 hours before the Libyan debacle at Ouadi Doum. Which Arab countries are only now concerned about security in the region and the OAU peace efforts?

We reaffirm that Chad is engaged in a war with Libya solely due to the determination of the latter. Consequently, our country will employ the appropriate weapons to defend itself. The racist reasoning followed by the author of the article becomes simply childish when he writes that the Maghrebian country will reconsider its position of neutrality and moderation should the United States supply Chad with the Stinger missiles. This is an argument meant for Al-Qadhadhafi's consumption. He is their allied master. As for us, we are aware that this country, which we will name at an opportune time, has long ago ceased being neutral.

Worse still, it has resolutely chosen to support the Libyan regime both diplomatically and militarily. As for the indecent statements about the upcoming UDEAC [Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa] and [word indistinct] summits and the whitewashing of houses in the capital on the eve of the [words indistinct] summit—conferences, which according to the article could not find a settlement to the conflict—we will simply say that these countries have displayed a very real bitterness toward seeing Chad regain the confidence of Africa and the world, to the extent that it now hosts several summits. This is something that Libya has failed to do for several years now.

This article brings us to this painful conclusion. Kept in awe by Israel, powerless in the face of the Lebanese tragedy, divided and weakened by Iran, some Arab countries are seeking to rebuild their unity at the expense of Chad. They are doing this by sending their men and money and extending their political and diplomatic support to Al-Qadhdhafi. Their current crusade against Chad is assuming alarming proportions; the *Al-Mustaqbal* newspaper article is a perfect illustration of this. Chadians and sub-Saharan Africans are now becoming aware of the existence of an Arab plot against Chad. The responsibility for an Arab-African split along the Sahara will lie entirely with the countries of the region that provide arms to and encourage the Tripoli regime.

## Egypt

### Romanian President Continues Visit, Talks

#### Meets With Mubarak

*NC231733 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1722 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu held a session of private talks at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this evening.

The Romanian president had arrived in Cairo earlier today for a 3-day [duration as received] visit.

#### Dinner Speeches Exchanged

*NC232136 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] His Excellency President Husni Mubarak and his wife hosted a dinner banquet this evening in honor of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, his wife, and the delegation accompanying them. The dinner was attended by Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the People's Assembly; Dr 'Ali Lutfi, speaker of the Consultative Council; Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister; the deputy prime ministers; and a number of other ministers and officials.

President Husni Mubarak made a speech in which he welcomed the Romanian president. Expressing satisfaction with this visit, the president said that it promotes the two countries' ties, which are based on cooperation, friendship, and understanding. He said that it also embodies both sides' mutual desire to exchange views and to consult continuously, which proceeds from their identical view of events and the importance of current world developments.

The president asserted that all peace-loving countries must combine their efforts to establish a new international order which would provide a greater degree of justice and stability for all parties. He stressed that such an order would also give developing countries the capability to confront the problems and crises that currently undermine their ability to enjoy effective and balanced growth. In this connection, the president cited the increasing cooperation between Egypt and Romania as an example. He asserted that this stands as a model and undeniable proof of the huge capabilities which can be utilized within a framework of fruitful cooperation to serve the goals of development.

The president referred to the current striking developments in the world and emphasized the importance of dealing with and guiding them in a manner that would attain the joint interests of all peoples.

The president declared that Egypt supports the present efforts to eliminate nuclear and chemical weapons, and to end the arms race among the great powers. He noted that this issue emphasizes the need to coordinate efforts to resolve regional disputes. In this context, President Mubarak noted the need to achieve tangible progress in the foreseeable future with regard to the efforts being made to establish a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to attain a historic reconciliation between the Arab parties and Israel on a basis of peaceful coexistence between Israel and the Palestinian people. He remarked that this can be accomplished by a mutual recognition of rights, foremost of which is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the preservation of their identity. The president stressed the need to hold an international peace conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in addition to the concerned parties, chief of which is the PLO.

The president said that ending the Iraq-Iran war is another matter linked to international peace and security. He stressed that the continuation of that war constitutes a grave threat to the present and future interests of the region's peoples.

Concluding his speech, President Mubarak hailed President Ceausescu's concern to undertake every possible effort to resolve all regional disputes, particularly the Middle East crisis. With regard to the latter, attempts are being made to lay down a basis that would permit the initiation of negotiations between the sides concerned.

The president also praised Romania's firm support for all just African causes, chief of which is the confrontation of the racist South African regime and its flagrant aggression against the struggling peoples in southern Africa.

Romanian President Ceausescu then gave a speech in reply. At the outset, he expressed thanks and appreciation to President Mubarak for the warm reception accorded him in Egypt. President Ceausescu said that it is imperative that new agreements are reached at the upcoming Soviet-U.S. summit on the complete liquidation of nuclear weapons in Europe and in the world at large.

The Romanian president added that current international events require an intensification of international efforts that seek to resolve all of the world's vital issues through negotiations. Proceeding from this view, Romania stands on the side of a comprehensive, lasting, and just solution to the Middle East problem, the Romanian president said. Romania's concept of this solution, President Ceausescu went on to say, is identical with Egypt's. It is based on Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, including its right to set up an independent Palestinian state.

In his speech, the Romanian president stressed the need to make efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for the cessation of fighting in the Gulf. He also emphasized the need for efforts to bring about the withdrawal of the various foreign warships from the Gulf waters.

His excellency also praised the existing cooperation between Egypt and Romania at the various international conferences dealing with the diverse international problems.

### 'First' Round of Talks

*NC240821 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and President Nicolae Ceausescu held their first round of talks today at the Presidency in Heliopolis.

### Delegations Confer

*NC240916 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian and Romanian delegations held a round of talks this morning at the Presidency. The discussions were attended, on behalf of Egypt, by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; the ministers of electricity, information, scientific research, and economy, and the minister of state for international cooperation; the head of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and the Egyptian ambassador to Romania.

Mrs Elena Ceausescu, Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Oprea, the foreign minister, the minister of state at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation, the Romanian ambassador in Cairo, and the minister of state at the Interior Ministry represented Romania at the talks.

### Further on Detention of Group's Members

*NC240933 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 23 Nov 87 p 9*

[Text] It is reported that the American Embassy in Cairo detained a member of Egypt's Revolution for 53 days because the brother of the person in question had informed the Egyptian Embassy in London about him. The information later reached Cairo, where police arrested six members of the organization. Upon orders from above, the police agreed to hand them over to the American Embassy for interrogation by a CIA team.

### Foreign Minister Confers With Soviet Ambassador

*NC221158 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conferred with the Soviet ambassador in Cairo today. Following the meeting, the Soviet ambassador said that they had discussed the results of the Amman summit which, according to him, were positive because they tackled basic issues facing the Arab states, especially the Gulf war, the importance of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, and the Middle East problem.

The Soviet ambassador lauded the resumption of full diplomatic relations between Egypt and nine Arab states, saying that this step will boost Arab action and help to solve regional problems.

### Foreign Minister Discusses Arab Issues, Tabah

*NC231202 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egyptian-Arab relations will enter a new phase of cooperation, and that the Arab countries will recognize the Egyptian policy of genuine desire to achieve honorable peace for them.

'Abd al-Majid made these remarks in an address before a seminar of NDP information and organizational secretaries at the NDP's Institute of National Studies in Heliopolis last night.

'Abd al-Majid described the recent Amman summit as a historic turning point in the history of the Arab nation.

'Abd al-Majid affirmed that Egypt has a role to play because it is an important part of the Arab nation, and Egypt's fate cannot be separated from that of the other Arab states. He indicated that the Arab states have recently realized that the Arab world cannot do without Egypt and its strength. He added that Egypt opens its heart to all the Arab states on the basis of mutual cooperation for the welfare of the world.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that Egypt plays a role in the Islamic world and in Africa, from whose states we have received much support. He also noted the great cooperation between Egypt and the nonaligned states.

'Abd al-Majid noted that Egypt's relations with the United States are based on common interests, expressing his appreciation for U.S. help in overcoming Egypt's economic crisis. He also expressed Egypt's appreciation for European countries and termed Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union as good.

He affirmed that Egyptian diplomatic activity abroad aims to serve the issues of development.

Concerning the Iran-Iraq war, Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed Egypt's support for Iraq, which endorses a peaceful solution. He said we do not oppose Iran but the exportation of Khomeynism to the world.

On the Tabah issue, he explained that the memorandum and documents Egypt has submitted to the arbiration panel in Geneva prove that Tabah is Egyptian, noting Israel's withdrawal from Tabah after the 1956 wars.

### Paper Stresses Need for Unified Arab Stand

*NC211345 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 20 Nov 87*

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—The newspaper *Al-Ahram* appeals to Arabs to agree on unified stands, to activate the Middle East issue, and to take appropriate initiatives for their propagation with a sufficient degree of flexibility, especially prior to the 7 December U.S.-Soviet summit.

In its Saturday edition, the paper says the Arabs should continue to revive the situation through positive contributions, rising above their differences, and by truly putting forward several ideas addressing the various aspects of the [international] conference such as representation, the procedures, or the core of the Middle East issue itself. The course, the paper says, has been paved for submitting such formulas after the recent Arab summit conference in Amman agreed on the convention of this conference as the best framework to tackle the [Mideast] issue. Thus, the Arabs may have a tangible impact on the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting. They will also have the capability to submit and to contribute to solutions rather than just receiving proposals, commenting on, or rejecting them. The paper reminds the Arabs of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's criticism of them for not [word indistinct] matters sufficiently, as they are the original claimants in this issue, noting that they [the Arabs] should agree on unified stands and then take appropriate initiatives to propagate them with sufficient flexibility.

### Defense Minister To Visit U.S. in January

*NC230807 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, will pay a visit to the United States in the second half of January, the weekly magazine *Mayu* reports.

The magazine, which is the organ of the NDP, says that the aim of the visit is to strengthen Egyptian military industries and to discuss the manufacture of the M-1 tank in Egypt.

### France's Barre Confers With Senior Officials

*NC211421 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received at his office this morning former French Prime Minister Raymond Barre and his accompanying delegation, who are currently visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, Sidqi and Barre reviewed the excellent relations between Egypt and France, as well as the current efforts being made to establish peace in the Middle East and to end the Gulf war. They also discussed the Arab situation in the light of the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and a considerable number of Arab countries.

Raymond Barre also conferred in separate meetings with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Following his meetings with 'Abd al-Majid and Ghali, Barre said that he had discussed with them the international situation and recent Middle East developments, as well as the possibility of holding an international conference on Middle East peace. He expressed his satisfaction over the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and several Arab countries, praising Egypt's important role in the region.

Calling for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, Barre said that the Gulf war is sapping the human and economic resources of Iraq and Iran.

### Ghali Receives Message From Chadian Minister

*NC221531 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Joseph Gibang Mbida, the Chadian ambassador in Cairo.

They discussed a number of bilateral cooperation issues.

During the meeting, the Chadian ambassador delivered a message to Dr Ghali from the Chadian foreign minister. The contents of the message have not been disclosed.

### Sidqi Meets With International Bank Delegation

*NC212140 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received Wilfried Thalwitz, regional vice president for Western Africa of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD], and his accompanying delegation in his office this evening. Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs, and Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, were also present at the meeting.

Following the meeting, which lasted well over 2 hours, Dr Sidqi said that today's meeting was the final session to assess the situation following contacts which the IBRD official and delegation had with the ministers of agriculture, planning, administrative development, electricity, industry, and economy. These meetings dealt with all issues related to cooperation between the IBRD and the Egyptian Government. He noted that the IBRD delegation members had been optimistic during these meetings. He said that a delegation from the World Bank will arrive in Cairo during the 2d week of December to transform the results of these meetings into agreements.

**FRG Economic Delegation Arrives for Talks**
*NC211135 Cairo MENA in English 1039 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] Cairo, Nov. 21 (MENA)—A West German economic delegation led by the director general of the Ministry of Economic Cooperation arrived here today on a week-long visit.

The delegation will have talks with senior officials at the Ministries of Economic Cooperation, Health, Agriculture and Foreign Affairs on ways of boosting relations between Egypt and West Germany.

**Kuwaiti Minister Arrives for 5-Day Visit**
*NC221840 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1804 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 nov (MENA)—'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of public health and planning, arrived in Cairo this evening for a 5-day visit to Egypt. This follows an invitation from Dr Raghib Duwaydar, minister of health, and Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister for cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development.

On his arrival, Al-'awadi stated that he is carrying a message for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak from Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

**Confers With Mubarak**
*NC231420 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis today Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of public health and planning. Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister for cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, Dr Muhammad Raghib Duwaydar, minister of health, and 'Abd al-Raziq al-Kandri, Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo, also attended the meeting.

The Kuwaiti health minister said that he had conveyed to President Mubarak a detailed verbal message from his highness, the amir of Kuwait, dealing with bilateral cooperation. He also conveyed to his excellency the appreciation of his highness, the Kuwaiti heir apparent, and of the Kuwaiti Government for the commendable Egyptian stands on all current issues.

The Kuwaiti health minister said that during the meeting they exchanged views on issues of the future, problems confronting the Arab nation, the need to coordinate efforts among the Arab countries, and continuing support for all efforts seeking to stabilize the Middle East situation in general and the Iraq-Iran war in particular. He remarked that, naturally, Egypt's position on these matters is very important. He noted that the president had, as usual, been clear on these issues, as he strongly supports all Arab causes and significant issues. He added: We hope Egypt will always remain at the forefront of the Arab countries in confronting all developments which might face the Arab nation.

Health Minister Raghib Duwaydar stated that the good relations between Egypt and Kuwait are long-standing and strong. He noted that numerous physicians, nurses, and other medical personnel are currently working in Kuwait. He added that further efforts in this regard will be made. He noted that fraternal Kuwait will cooperate with Egypt in the manufacture of medicines. He said there will be an exchange of research in the field of health insurance, treatment, and preventive medicine.

**Sidqi Issues Government Policy Statement 16 Nov**
*JN201335 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Nov 87 pp 3-4, 7, 9*

["Text" of Government Policy Statement read by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi at the People's Assembly in Cairo on 16 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr Speaker of the council. Dear members of the venerable council.

I would like to begin by thanking your venerable council for its unfailing support for the government and for the confidence which you renewed in this government last summer. It is true that the government has been reshuffled, but most of its members have remained.

I would also like to congratulate President Muhammad Husni Mubarak [applause] on behalf of the government for the confidence which our great nation has once again invested in him. The second term of his excellency's presidency will usher in a new and promising era for the country's progress. The second term can only be a continuation of the same glorious achievements in all political, social, and economic fields which marked President Mubarak's first term.

Under our system of democracy and tolerance, in implementing the president's instructions to the new government, in keeping with the spirit of revival which his

excellency has begun, and in accordance with the Constitution and the law, I herewith communicate to the representatives of the great people of Egypt the program of the new government for action in the coming phase.

The government, as it represents its program to your venerable council, is seeking your support, NDP members and opposition alike, in order to create a better life for our people and release the full potential of a nation which, over the centuries, has made a lasting contribution to civilization here and abroad.

I have delivered the Government Policy Statement twice before from this podium: Once on 29 December 1986 and again on 6 June 1987. On both occasions, I outlined a certain strategy and programs for comprehensive development in the country. In continuation and confirmation of such strategy and programs, I would like to present the current policy statement in two parts:

The first part, in a nutshell, will reveal the government's strategy for consolidating political and social freedoms and strengthening the economy.

The second part will be devoted to individual plans, as well as to a discussion of certain programs addressing several issues which will be given prime attention in the coming phase—the phase of revival.

The government strategy and policies:

We have made long strides on the path of political, economic, and social reform. We have crossed many barriers and came close to resolving many of our social and economic problems. With comprehensive development being our goal, we have to attain political and democratic freedom, on the one hand, and social justice, on the other hand. This will enable us to build a society capable of confronting obstacles and conquering challenges. Our government, while endeavoring to achieve comprehensive development, is determined to base its efforts on the dual underpinnings of democracy and social justice. This twin task has proved daunting to many countries undergoing a stage of economic development similar to ours. Some of these countries gave prominence to social justice at the expense of political freedom, while others concentrated on political freedom and passed over the social justice issue.

We have chosen democracy as our way of life. We are convinced that democracy constitutes a firm basis for social and economic progress. It is the turf of the strong, of a nation which honors the Constitution, of a people who know their rights and pay their dues, of a country in which free debate is the established way to serve the public.

Therefore, the government has never forgone and will never abandon its commitment to democracy. Our numerous achievements under democracy have overshadowed any setbacks which may have surfaced on occasion. Political life has flourished and the news media, particularly the press, have brought forward a plethora of unhindered opinions. Meanwhile, constitutional institutions have become capable of playing a more vital role. The representatives of the people, both from the government party and the opposition, working together under the dome of your venerable council, have perfected the exercise of democracy in terms of both legislation and control.

Since democracy includes participation in decisionmaking, the government is endeavoring to widen popular participation in national action and is keeping the people informed of all the facts. The government calls on the people to share in the public debate of our national issues, the public interest being the ultimate and the sole goal which should be pursued in earnest.

Democratic rule is a way of attaining stability and prosperity, but its success is also a function of internal stability. Therefore, the protection afforded this stability is the decided responsibility of the government and of every Egyptian interested in a better life for himself and his family. Stability is based simply on respect for the law, on safeguarding the country, on protecting the citizens, and on well-formulated foreign policy which gives priority to the nation's interests.

The respect of the law requires, above all, good legislation. The laws must abide by the Constitution and reflect the will of the masses. They must be obeyed. Every citizen should be aware that the law must be respected by one and all. Laws are made to protect the people and to organize public life.

The judiciary branch of the government must be given all the moral and financial support it needs. Its independence and immunity are sacred. In addition, the laws must always be revised to be coherent, complementary, and in harmony, both with modern times and with the cherished tenets of Islam.

Furthermore, the maintenance of internal stability requires that the Armed Forces be equipped with the most technologically-advanced hardware [applause], to enable it to match the power of the most modern armies and carry out its sacred task. From this podium I express, on behalf of the government, the highest esteem and appreciation to the members of the Armed Forces [applause], for their dedicated efforts in the defense of the nation and for their massive contribution to building an advanced military industry.

The government underlines its commitment to provide security for the citizen's life, property, and honor. The government believes that the people's confidence in the state's ability to firmly confront any attempt to terrorize its people, or to harm their freedom represents its

sublime duty. Thus, the government considers it its duty to support the police force, to enable it to shoulder its responsibilities and to establish internal security. [applause]

From this rostrum, the government voices its pride and appreciation to the security men and to the police force for the efforts they are making to decisively confront any violation of legitimacy and to combat all kinds of terrorism.

Our foreign policy is characterized by a clear vision. Our policy centers on five main principles: maintaining peace, serving the objectives of social and economic development, contributing effectively to the defense of the Arab nation's security, maintaining Egypt's position at the heart of the Muslim world, and promoting ties with the African Continent. Peace is a strategic course for which there is no alternative. From this premise, Egyptian diplomacy is endeavoring to work out a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue. Intensive, continuing efforts are under way to eliminate the obstacles to an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Proceeding from our conviction that peace is indivisible, we attach the utmost importance to the issues of peace and security on the international level. Egypt is taking part in the international efforts for disarmament, for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and for the declaration of the Mediterranean region as a zone free from nuclear weapons. Egypt is also making efforts to settle regional disputes by peaceful means.

Since social and economic development constitutes one of the main objectives of Egyptian diplomacy, departments of the Foreign Ministry are participating in the ongoing efforts to have debts rescheduled on the best possible terms. They are also participating in attempts to set up a fairer international economic order in the interests of the developing countries.

The president's participation in UNCTAD's seventh conference was a prominent manifestation of this policy. Furthermore, the African states' economic conference, slated to be held within a few days, is also an advanced move to facilitate discussion of the debts of the developing African states and to invite investments and encourage trade.

Our action at the Arab level is based on a commitment to Arab charters and on action to strengthen solidarity among Arab countries. It also is based on support for Iraq, Kuwait, and any other Arab country in confronting aggression or threat. It seeks to end the raging war between Iran and Iraq, halt foreign intervention and the military presence in Lebanon, and ensure that Israel withdraws from the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, Egypt will relentlessly work to strengthen relations with the Arab countries. Hence, the decisions made by some fraternal Arab countries to restore relations with Egypt in the wake of the Amman summit have not stemmed from a vacuum, but from our foreign policy, the bases of which are a pan-Arab commitment, balance, and moderation. The foundations of this foreign policy have been established by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [applause]

We aspire to further cooperation, coordination, and consolidation of relations between Egypt and the Arab countries. We are confident that Egypt will remain the heart of the Arab nation and the centerpiece of its cohesiveness. We are also confident that Egypt's return to its normal position, and the Arab nation's return to Egypt, are signs that the Arabs will regain their solidarity and restore their influence and international status. This will bring to realization their basic interests in terms of security, stability, peace, and development.

Indeed, the Amman summit represents an important step along the road of reconciliation and accord. Egypt welcomes this summit and every step that is bound to mend the rift, unify ranks, and patch up differences. Egypt hopes that the Amman summit will constitute the beginning of a new era in which the Arabs, regardless of their stand and country, will defend Arab solidarity, for which there is no alternative. The Arabs are called upon to confront the threats and challenges which face them. They should take matters firmly in hand and adopt positions necessary to build a joint Arab policy which would deter every aggression, guarantee pan-Arab security, and achieve supreme Arab interests.

From this forum, I take this opportunity to greet those Arab leaders who have taken part in this conference to unify Arab ranks and to place the Arab nation at the starting point of solidarity, since this will enable it to challenge and confront the dangers and threats facing it. [applause]

With reference to the Islamic world, Egypt has regained its full membership in the ICO. Our move is based on strengthening cultural, economic, and trade cooperation with the Islamic countries. It is also based on coordination between the Islamic Arab and African sections on the one hand, and the nonaligned countries on the other, in order to secure Egypt's interest and serve joint concerns.

Our African policy is tenacious and clear. It is based on the need to end the vestiges of colonialism and racial discrimination in South Africa. Our African policy is also based on the need to strengthen cooperation with African states and to coordinate efforts within the African group in international bodies, particularly the United Nations and its organizations, and the nonaligned group. Egypt is simultaneously working to strengthen and coordinate cooperation with the Nile Basin states.

We would like to reiterate here Egypt's role in giving aid and technical expertise to developing countries in general, and to our African brothers in particular. This aid, which is being effected through various Egyptian organizations and institutions, seeks to give assistance in the field of implementing the development programs in those countries. This stems from Egypt's belief in its mission to strengthen South-South cooperation in general, and that between Egypt and its fraternal African states in particular. Africa represents the depth of Egypt's national security and vital interests.

Egyptian diplomacy is also constantly working to strengthen relations with the United States and to urge it to activate efforts for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. Contacts are continuing with the U.S. Administration to reach a satisfactory agreement on settling the military debts to the United States.

Egypt's relations with Western Europe and the EC are of special significance. The diplomatic efforts have attained their effective results in promoting and developing our ties with them both politically and economically.

Our relations with the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc countries are friendly and are based on friendship, mutual respect, and cooperation for the common benefit of our people and other peoples, within the framework of the nonalignment policy, which constitues a principal part of our diplomatic action.

As for social justice, it is our understanding that this includes the realization of socialist democracy in the manner stipulated by the Constitution to preclude exploitation, to eliminate class distinction, to protect legal gains, to guarantee the just distribution of public burdens and expenses, and to provide the minimum limit of social solidarity.

From the premise of commitment to the mission of social justice, the government has implemented and is seeking to implement policies which aim primarily to raise the standard of living of people with small incomes and to increase their actual income. This will be done either through increasing their financial income or through giving them privileges in kind, which primarily benefit them and which are represented in free or subsidized services. Therefore, the government has increased wages, salaries, and pensions by 20 percent since July 1987. The government is currently studying an amendment of the wage scale. It is contemplating increasing the minimum and maximum wages, and doing so periodically so as to be in line, as much as possible, with the general price level. Morever, the government and the public works sector continue to be the largest source of job opportunities.

The number of insured persons who are entitled to a retirement salary increased from 10.7 to 12 million people between 1981 and 1987. [applause]

In order to strike a balance between prices and wages, it is also necessary to subsidize the price of certain basic commodities. There will be no retreat from this course in order to ensure that people with low incomes can be protected. The direct subsidy in basic supply commodities for 1986-87 amounted to approximately 870 million pounds. The direct subsidy for commonly used textiles totaled approximately 54 million pounds, that for agricultural produce approximately 276 million pounds, and that for the construction and housing sector 90 million pounds. This is in addition to the interest on soft loans, and transportation for workers totaling approximately 49 million pounds. Other commodities and services were also subsidized.

Furthermore, the government is seeking to control prices by providing the basic supply goods and by launching educational programs which seek to change consumption practices in a way that will conform with production.

The Constitution guarantees the right of free education for its children without any discrimination. It also stipulates that basic education is compulsory. As a result of the government's abidance by these constitutional principles, the general expenditures on education have increased in excess of more than 1.2 billion pounds for 1986-87 for pre-university education, and more than 50 million pounds for high school education. The number of classes increased by approximately 53,000 during 1981-82 and 1986-87, which is an increase of 30 percent. The rate of enrollment of students who have reached the compulsory school age has increased from 85 to 94 percent. The number of students who were accepted at all levels of pre-university education increased from 1.9 to 2.5 million students. The number of those accepted at university and graduate schools has increased from 18.5 to 37.9 thousand students.

To ensure that the concept of free education is not robbed of its significance, to ensure that schools and universities perform the basic task of teaching in a manner which will ease the burden on the Egyptian family, and to ensure that the goal of producing successive generations of productive people capable of worthy performance is achieved, the government has begun to implement a new strategy to reform the educational system. I will be honored to submit this strategy to your excellencies in the second part of this statement.

In the area of housing, the government pays great attention to low-income housing and subsidizes it by providing building sites in city quarters and areas reserved for this kind of housing at prices that do not exceed the cost of utilities. In the allocation of building sites, it gives priority to housing cooperatives in new towns and in the suburbs of old towns. It also supplies easy-term loans for building purposes, on the condition that such loans are restricted to low-income recipients.

In line with this policy, 467,000 low-income housing units were built during the 1982-87 5-year plan. This figure represents 57.5 percent of all completed housing units. A further 630,000 low-income housing units are planned, representing approximately 70 percent of the total sum of housing units projected for completion in the 1987-92 economic plan.

The governorates, housing and construction firms, and the association of housing and construction cooperatives have also obtained easy-term loans for low-income housing projects. The Treasury has paid part of the interest on these loans—50 million pounds in the year 1986-87 alone.

In order to completely eliminate the housing crisis by the year 2000, God willing, the government is currently implementing housing programs within the framework of a national plan that will meet the actual housing needs arising from population increases, renovations, and progressive deterioration. It will honor me to submit the government's program on confronting the housing crisis in detail in the second part of this statement.

In the sphere of health services, the number of beds, hospitals, and physicians has increased at a rate that has served health care requirements during the years 1982-87. A positive indication in this respect is that the ratio of doctors to every 1,000 citizens increased in those 5 years from 1.19 to 1.54, the ratio of dentists from 0.16 to 0.21, pharmacists from 0.40 to 0.48, and nurses from 1.37 to 1.56. The ratio of beds to every 1,000 citizens has been to a certain degree maintained during the same period, despite an increase in the population by 6.2 million people.

In the field of health care and preventive medicine, the government attaches importance to the protection of environment from air, land, and water pollution, as well as from radioactivity. Furthermore, the government also has worked to expand cultivated land. Indeed, there is still much to do in this regard.

The field of health care also involves supplying adequate sanitation facilities to housing units which were built haphazardly without them. The government has taken all necessary measures to prevent further construction of such units.

I move now to discuss economic development and the issue of increasing production. The government's strategy to achieve economic development is based on a number of principles, foremost among which, perhaps, is the assumption that this development constitutes a part of the balanced comprehensive development and is closely linked to the social system and to the society's cultural framework. The growth in production rates should be larger than that of the consumption and population rates. We should encourage our own ability to produce the largest possible number of commodities and services to meet our local and export needs.

The government believes that the only way to realize such goals is to increase qualitative and quantitative production. Therefore, this issue has been and still is foremost among the priorities for national action. The government is currently preparing to convene a national conference in February 1988. All institutions and parties will be invited to this conference in order to discuss the means of increasing production and promoting marketing, to implement the president's directives.

The government believes that the increase of production must be based on a number of considerations: to promote productivity in all fields; to fully mobilize Egypt's internal and external resources; to continue to support the infrastructure; and to pursue a scientific course of action to promote progress.

The government is striving to elevate the productivity of the Egyptian worker, who is the key factor in increasing production. This could be achieved by promoting his educational level and linking this with development needs. This could also be achieved through placing emphasis on adapting technologies for the Egyptian society. The huge potential of youth can be utilized by providing productive job opportunities for them and by deepening their religious and cultural values in order to inculcate in them sound work principles and make them sense the importance of their interaction with the national labor force. This would serve their interest and also that of society.

An increase in productivity also requires the elimination of waste in the production process, during both the manufacturing and marketing phases. This is a very important matter, particularly in light of the fact that the waste in some cases has been considerable.

The second consideration on which an increase in production is based is the full mobilization, as I have said previously, of local resources in the public, private, or cooperative sectors. The government is currently implementing a program that will increase the productive potential of the public sector, which I will be honored to review for you in the second part of this statement. The government is sparing no effort to provide an appropriate atmosphere for the growth of the private sector so that it may carry out the large role designed for it in various fields in the 1987-92 plan. In industrial activities, for example, the government encourages the private sector to set up small and medium-size industries by providing land in the industrial zones on easy terms, and by providing sufficient financing under favorable conditions; that is, with regard to interest, period of settlement, and tax exemptions. The government also encourages the investment of private capital in the establishment of big industrial projects by allowing the banks to enter as participants or backers. The planning organization will carry out the role of the consultant firm in return for nominal fees or no fees at all. The same applies to other activities such as agriculture, housing, tourism, and other production services. Measures are

being simplified, laws and regulations are being established, incentives and tax exemptions are being developed, financing is being provided under easy terms, the investment authority is being developed, and obstacles to the investment of savings are being eliminated.

The government also stresses the need to support the cooperative movement in all fields and to eliminate the hurdles limiting the expansion of its activities. Naturally, the road is still long in this regard. I say this very frankly, and I will explain the measures that the government is contemplating in the second part of the statement so that we may consult together and proceed, God willing, along the right path.

Linked to an increase in production is the need to continue to support the material and social infrastructure so as to be able to provide the appropriate atmosphere for pushing forward and balancing the development process in a way that will avert any bottleneck in the various fields of production. Great accomplishments in this regard were achieved in the previous 5-year plan, the most important of which were the addition of compound voltage in the electricity sector amounting to about 3,510 megawatts, approximately three times the power added during the 10 years from 1972 to 1982.

In the transport and communications sector, 50 percent of the railway car fleet has been replaced, 420 km of new railroads have been constructed, and 9,400 km of asphalt roads have been completed. The number of trucks has been doubled. Telephone lines have been increased from 540,000 to 1,450,000 lines. The loading capacity of ports has risen from 21 million tons to 40 million tons annually. The first stage of the metro line, 29 km, has also been constructed.

In the field of public utilities, potable water projects and sewer systems have been completed in Cairo, Alexandria, and other localities in the country, at an approximate cost of 361 million pounds.

As I have explained in the two previous government statements, development naturally depends on scientific planning. A 5-year plan was completed in the years 1982-87. A new 5-year plan was instituted in mid-1987. All this is done as part of long-term planning that extends until 2002.

The 1987-92 plan rests on three major topics. The first is to consolidate the principle of self-reliance. This is accomplished by supporting the commodity-producing sectors, which should grow at rates proportional to the growth of rates in the service sectors; increasing production and the use of advanced technology to eliminate waste in the production process; improving the balance of payments; reducing the foreign component in the financing of the economic plan; providing investment requirements from local production; and bolstering the production role of private and cooperative sectors, in addition to the public sector.

The second topic revolves around bolstering and reforming the material and social infrastructure. This is done in order to enhance absorption capacity and competence, and to economize in the consumption of materials. This will raise the standard of living, which, in turn, will be reflected in the Egyptian individual's behavior and the sphere of national development.

The third topic of the second 5-year plan is to adopt the demographic dimension as a constant factor in the strategy of development. This requires extending support to new communities, which exist far from the established valley community, to enable them to assimilate continuous population growth. Naturally, such an endeavor requires continued support for local government apparatuses so that they may play an effective role in regional developments and in carrying out economic and social development in local communities.

The government is reconsidering the current Local Government Law No 43 from the year 1979. Its amendment would enable the government to further decentralize in the field of administration, to transfer power to local councils, to define the role of the local councils in following up the implementation and control of various aspects of local services, and to mobilize the citizens' material and human resources in order to expand popular participation in setting up production and service projects.

The government is currently studying the possibility of building free industrial zones to serve as the nucleus for the development expansion, as well as to absorb the industrial projects that have been proposed by foreign, Arab, and also Egyptian monies, aiming to increase production and exports.

There is no doubt that confronting the population problem is essential. Only then can efforts toward development produce effective results in raising the standard of living. As mentioned in the previous government statement, our brothers, the religious ulema and preachers, should shoulder a big responsibility in resolving this problem. Furthermore, the mass media and the various information campaigns can and should play an extremely important role in changing social behavior by advocating small families.

The implementation of the government's strategy in the next stage dictates that we adopt a number of integrated socioeconomic policies. I will mention here only three important ones: the monetary and credit policy, the financial policy, and the policy of cooperation with the outside world.

As for the monetary and credit policy, which a number of the esteemed assembly members have questioned, the government continues to apply this policy to combat inflation by gradually reducing the expansion in the monetary field, by encouraging the banks to provide the necessary funds for investment, and by stabilizing the

value of the Egyptian pound against foreign currencies. This policy has scored tangible success in reducing the expansion in the monetary field to 8.6 percent, which is quite close to the actual rate of the gross national product for the year 1986-87. This stands against 13.5 percent during the previous year and is possible because of the application of new and direct control measures over credit that the banks give to the various national economic sectors, whether government or private. These sectors are urged to exploit a larger share of their own resources to finance the investments.

To encourage banks to provide the necessary funds for investment and production, a new structure for interest rates has been charted. This structure freezes the interest rates on short-term loans up to 1 year and increases the interest rates on flexible medium- and long-term loans.

The foreign currency free exchange market has been set up in order to stabilize the price of the Egyptian pound exchange. As we explained in the 6 June 1987 government statement, this was to achieve a realistic price standard, within a specific period, by certain means.

The government, God willing, will very shortly submit new legislation before your esteemed assembly. It will organize the activities of the money investment companies in a manner compatible with the public interest and the security of citizens investments.

The financial policy addresses aspects related to the deficit in the general budget, as well as revenues and general expenditures. As for the deficit, the ultimate current objective of the financial policy is to achieve some sort of a general balancing. This can only be realized by intensifying efforts toward a gradual reduction in the gross deficit and the net deficit of the general budget. This can be done by reducing the general expenditures, as much as possible, while not allowing this to affect good performance, development of the public revenues to match the growth of the taxable community, and economy in operational costs and investment efficiency.

It is the policy of the present government to adopt the measures necessary for stepping up tax collection and combating tax evasion. On this occasion, the government appeals from this platform to all citizens to abide by the taxation laws and pay their taxes. Otherwise, the government will not be able to carry out its obligations and meet the demands placed before it. Furthermore, it is the government's policy to abide by the allocations made in the budget in order that the net deficit, which is provided by the banking machinery, may be within the narrowest limits and within the projected plan framework.

In order to reduce inflationary pressures, the government is studying ways of mobilizing more actual long-term savings to finance the deficit in the general budget and substitute the inflationary financing which it is compelled to resort to, now and then. Such measures include the issuance of various government bonds at appropriate interest rates which will be put up for sale to the public.

Our policy in the coming stage with regard to Egypt's dealings with the outside world will revolve around achieving one principal and clear strategic aim; namely, to reduce our dependence on the outside world. We cannot prevent such a reliance completely, but we will try to reduce it as much as possible in order to bring the current balance of payments deficit down to a minimum. This will afford stability to the development process and imbue it with an inherent driving force that will enable it to avert numerous shakeups and unexpected fluctuations. To achieve this, a number of measures are required, and they should be designed to develop export commodities, both industrial and agricultural, but especially manufactured products.

They should also aim at stabilizing the revenues from such export products. Service exports should be increased, particularly tourism resources and remittances from Egyptians abroad. In addition, economizing guidelines should be adopted with regard to imports in order to make sure that they come in in forms and at rates appropriate to the growth of production, consumption, and investment.

The second half of 1986 and the foregoing months of 1987 have witnessed—truly and without any exaggeration—great efforts in the field of promoting export commodities in foreign markets. These efforts were made by trade missions abroad, the Center for the Development of Egyptian Exports, and the General Authority for Exhibitions and International Markets. In addition, barter deals have been concluded with Arab, European, African, and Asian countries, the export structure of which has usually consisted of unconventional commodities. This has had the effect of increasing Egyptian exports of raw materials, semi-manufactured products, and unprocessed steel to 810 million pounds in the first half of 1987, which is almost double the 436 million pounds for the same period of the previous year. This increase has largely compensated for the decline in our oil export revenues.

The current 5-year plan aims at increasing manufactured exports by 14 percent annually, and agricultural exports by 7 percent.

The government intends to increase tourism revenues by the improvement of tourism promotion activities abroad and by the skillful use of the existing capabilities in tourism. This will be done by contributing to the special Tourism Association Fund and the Fund for Tourism and Rural Services in order to promote publicity in a way that is in keeping with the nature of the tourism industry and over which there is no dispute. Efforts should be made to create new forms of tourism, while at

the same time focusing on tourism incentives and conferences, expanding the number of chartered flights, and providing facilities. These measures will also increase tourism.

The government will seek, and is actually currently seeking, to stabilize the pricing policy for tourism services in accordance with the law of supply and demand, but without contravening international and regional competition in order to secure a suitable revenue for society. This should be coupled with improving the quality of hotel, tourist transportation, and air services.

It is to be recalled with pride that the income from tourism during the first 9 months of 1987 has shown an increase of about 107.7 percent. During the first 9 months of 1987, the number of tourist/night was 12.611 million, as against 6.071 million during the corresponding period in 1986. Consequently, the rate of hotel occupancy showed a substantial increase, as did the income from tourism. Our hotels, praise God, are almost fully booked at present.

Doubtless, the realistic exchange rate of the Egyptian pound has been instrumental in increasing the flow of income from tourism into the public treasury through official banking channels.

The government has endeavored and will continue to seek to maximize revenues from the Suez Canal and to encourage the flow of remittances from Egyptian expatriates. A detailed survey of Egyptian expatriates is currently being conducted and efforts to strengthen their ties with the motherland and to meet their needs are underway. Expatriates constitute a power for their motherland to count upon from a political, economic, and technological point of view. We will brief you on the outcome of such measures in the near future.

Concerning imports, there have been several achievements which could lead to a better alignment of imports with the needs of society and with the economic and development plans. Committees formerly charged with streamlining imports were disbanded following repeated demands for their abolition. Instead, lists were prepared of prohibited imports, imports that are subject to prohibitively high tariffs, and low-tariff imports. Several reservations were again voiced over these lists and the government is now revising them. As soon as this is done, the new lists will be presented to your council, God willing.

As part of the equal trade agreements, we are importing construction material, production and transportation equipment, chemical products, and foodstuffs.

The current 5-year plan seeks to increase imports of consumer goods at an annual rate of 0.7 percent and to increase imports of intermediary products at an annual rate of 3.9 percent. Meanwhile, the import of capital goods will drop by 3.3 percent, thanks to increased local production of equipment and machinery.

As for foreign loans, it is government policy to limit their use to such vital and indispensable spheres as infrastructure, renovation and replacement of production hardware, and the importation of machinery and spare parts needed to maintain the quality and standards of products, as well as the importation of basic foodstuffs, such as wheat and flour, to fill the gap between production and consumption.

Within the framework of an agreement in principle with the IMF, which I explained to you in the previous government statement, the government has begun negotiations with all creditor states to reschedule its debts in a way serving the national income under the best possible terms.

Turning now to the second part of the statement, we will try to explain to you the effects of this strategy and these policies on various sectors. The implementation of the 5-year plan for 1982-1987 has been completed, praise be to God, in a manner exceeding our expectations. The credit for this goes to those responsible for implementing and following up this plan. With the start of the 1987-88 year, the implementation of a new 5-year plan was initiated after it had been approved by the legislative branch. It is considered the second stage in a long-term plan, which began in the year 1982-83 and which will extend, God willing, until the year 2002. The second plan seeks to increase local production by an annual average of 5.5 percent and to increase local income by an annual average of 5.8 percent. The plan also seeks to create new job opportunities during the years to which it pertains, permitting the employment of 2.1 million workers. The plan further aims at implementing investments amounting to approximately 46.5 billion pounds. The public sector's share will be about 28.5 billion pounds, or 61.3 percent of the total investments, compared with 74.5 percent in the first 5-year plan. The private sector's share will be about 18 billion pounds, or 38.7 percent of the total investments, compared with 25.5 percent in the first 5-year plan.

A total of 51.6 percent of the public sector investments will be financed from the local savings deposited with the National Investment Bank. A total of 23.2 percent of these investments will come from the revenues of the economic organizations and units. A total of 25.2 percent of these investments will come from foreign sources. Foreign grants and aid will constitute about 6.3 percent of the total investments of the public sector. Foreign loans and credit facilities will constitute 18.9 percent.

The previous government statement, presented to you on 6 June 1987, included programs pertaining to the various sectors for the year 1987-1988. The new statement includes programs pertaining to the various sectors for a relatively longer period.

In this statement, we present to your esteemed assembly the programs pertaining to the various sectors, as well as those programs for facing the important issues which the Government hopes will be successfully implemented during the 1987-92 5-year plan.

First, the programs for the various sectors:

1. The Agricultural Sector
   A. Increasing agricultural production by more than 80 percent annually, raising the average productivity of the acre by strict observance of tested and tried integrated technical instructions, expanding the use of agricultural machinery, and improving the soil in about 2 million acres.
   B. Realizing self-sufficiency in all crops, except for wheat and maize whose imports will be cut by 25 percent.
   C. Building covered drainage systems to service 900,000 acres.
   D. Encouraging popular participation in the establishment of small agricultural industries.
   E. Working in the field of animal wealth to end the difficulties being faced by breeders, backing projects to produce beef, acquiring fodder from nontraditional raw materials, and increasing the number of veterinarian centers.
   F. Realizing self-sufficiency in poultry and fish after this has been realized in eggs.
   G. Reclaiming 150,000 acres.

This statement includes details of the government's program in this regard.

2. The Industrial Sector
   A. Raising production from 20.9 to 29.7 billion pounds, taking into account inflation, and in the ratio of 42 percent.
   B. Realizing self-sufficiency in most consumer-oriented industries, and increasing the production of cooking oil, sugar, fodder, and ready-made clothes.
   C. Expanding the production of building materials, rubber products, tires, liquid batteries; producing refrigerators and washing machines; expanding extraction industries; and meeting the country's needs for nitrogenous fertilizers.
   D. Implementing plans for renovation and replacements, especially in textile mills and war production factories.
   E. Expanding the production of industrial tools and spare parts and devoting certain production lines for exporting purposes.
3. The Oil Sector
   A. Increasing the production of crude oil by 2.4 million tonnes, that is, 5.6 percent; doubling the production of natural gas and liquefication equipment; and increasing the production of oil by-products by 5 million tonnes, that is, 25.4 percent.
   B. Continuing intensive efforts to explore for crude oil and natural gas and reaching agreements with international export companies.
   C. Making optimum use of gases that are found with the crude and continuing to expand the use of natural gas instead of oil by-products in the various sectors.
4. The Electricity Sector

Raising power generation capacity by 3529 megawatts, thus bringing total increases during the two development plans from 1982-1992 to six times what had been realized from 1972-1982. The government intends to diversify the sources of energy by constructing coal-operated power generation plants in addition to pursuing studies pertaining to nuclear reactors. It also intends to undertake complete utilization of the remaining water resources that can be used to produce energy.

5. Transport and Communications Sector
   A. Continuing support for the railways sector through the renovation of approximately 1,000 km and completing the construction of tracks parallel to the existing single ones in Upper Egypt.
   B. Boosting land transport by widening 355 km and by turning 399 km of one-way roads into two-way roads, building 376 km of new roads, and constructing and completing nine bridges.
   C. Increasing the number of telephone lines by 465,000 lines to reach a total of 2.1 million lines.
   D. Initiating work on the second line of the underground railway—Shubra/ Ramsis/Al-'Atabah/Al-Tahrir/Bulaq al-Dakrur.
   E. Boosting Egyptian port capacity by 8.2. million tonnes, 26.9 percent of their present capacity at the beginning of the plan.
   F. Augmenting the civilian air fleet and developing some airports into international airports. These include: Al-Nuzhah in Alexandria, Al-Ghardaqah, Sharm al-Shaykh, and Aswan.
6. Tourist Industry
   A. Completing the (Itab) Luxur and the (Itab) Port Said hotels, the Sheraton Al-Ghardaqah Hotel, and the Cairo Sheraton annex; raising the capacity of the Al-'Arish Motel; and completing the conference hall in Nasr City.
   B. Streamlining administration, security, and training manpower to enhance tourist facilities so as to compete with world tourist services.
   C. Building and increasing facilities in tourist spots and paying more attention to the protection of the environment.
7. Construction and New Communities
   A. Building 675 km of road in the Sinai, the northern coast, Al-Wadi al-Jadid, the Red Sea, the High Dam lake, and Cairo.
   B. Laying 650 km of water systems to carry approximately 59,000 cubic meters per day, and building 27 sea water desalinating units in Sinai, the

northern coast, Al-'Amiriyah, and Al-Wadi al-Jadid.

C. Completing the first phase of the new cities of 10 Ramadan, Al-Amiriyah al-Jadidah, Al-Sadat, and Al-Salihiyah, in addition to the three stages under construction in the 6 October City and the second stage of the electrification of Sinai and its incorporation into the general grid.

8. Housing Sector
   A. Building and completing approximately 1 million housing units, 900,000 in urban areas and 100,000 in reclaimed areas.
9. Public Utility Sector
   A. Increasing the volume of pure drinking water from 8.6 million cubic meters per day in 1986-87 to 12.4 million meters at the end of the plan in 1991-92, by 3.8 million cubic meters per day: 1.9 million in Cairo, 0.3 million in Alexandria, and 1.6 million in the rest of the governorates.
   B. In sanitary drainage: The goal is to complete the first stage of the sanitary drainage project in the eastern bank of greater Cairo and to complete the Hulwan sewage project; to implement systems at Al Ra's al-Sawda' in all four stages; and to implement the two purification stations in Al-Sharqiyah and Al-Gharbiyah. As for the provinces, support projects in 30 cities are to be completed.
10. Social Services Sector
   A. Overhauling the educational system as will be detailed later.
   B. In the area of health care: Hospital beds are to be raised nationally from 96,700 beds in 1986-87 to approximately 115.7 thousand beds in 1991-92, as well as attaining the level of an average of 1 doctor per 500 citizens and an average of 1 nurse per 600 citizens. In the area of medicine, the government's program calls for building new projects to back the medicinal sector.
   C. In the cultural sphere: The government's program calls for finalizing the construction of the Al-Hadarah Center project comprising the Opera House, the New Art Museum, and completing the National Center for Child Education; building new cultural establishments in the governorates; modernizing existing theaters; building four theaters in the new cities; and refurbishing movie studios.
   D. In education: The government's program calls for completing radio transmission on FM stations and provincial stations, completing the program transmission network to central Sinai, the northern coast, and completing the television transmission stations in central Sinai.
   E. In the area of social welfare: There is a plan for building, completing, and expanding approximately 740 social, rural, and desert social units; completing vocational training and social rehabilitation centers; and subsidizing the productive facilities and raising their number to 1 million.
   F. In the area of religious services: The plan is for the completion of approximately 73 mosques, refurbishing approximately 288 existing ones, and building 300 Islamic libraries.
   G. In the area of youth: There is a plan to complete approximately 40 youth centers, in addition to clubs, indoors sports halls, and the facilities of the Cairo International Stadium.

Streamlining administration in the public sector.

Second, the programs of addressing priority concerns for the government:

The first issue is that of the public sector and the means of fulfilling the productive potential of the private sector. The public sector plays, as we all know, a major role in Egyptian economic activity. It has been and will remain for some time the main instrument for implementing economic and social development plans. This sector assumes the main projects and strategic industries no one else can undertake. Its production represents a huge percentage of the national production. It implements several social plans and policies.

Since its establishment, the public sector has faced several problems which have limited its ability to increase production. Some of these were imposed on it in the course of the application of certain economic, financial, and social policies. Others were the result of difficulties and impediments within the companies of the sector itself. In order to achieve optimal results in this sector, the government is making efforts to solve its problems gradually.

These problems can be summarized as follows: weak management in certain companies, unbalanced financing structures, idle productive resources, the administrative pricing of certain products according to social criteria, and ongoing losses in several companies.

The administration of any economic unit entails the planning and control of production to increase production rates. It also entails quality control and the adjustment of criteria in accordance with the needs and the tastes of consumers. Frankly, the management of certain public sector companies needs closer scrutiny. Among these are the companies which are failing to make progress in terms of the volume and pattern of their production, which show a diminishing tendency in labor productivity in general, or which end up with stocks of unsold goods due to their low ability to compete in the market.

Consequently, the goverment is seeking to develop and update administrative systems through adherence to clear criteria and indications in selecting administrative cadres. It is also establishing the principle of separating management and ownership with a view to granting management more freedom in decisionmaking, provided

that this is coupled with specific regulations enabling results to be controlled. The government is already studying a system for the appointment of management cadres for a specific period of time, 3 years for example, which can be renewed if the desired results are achieved.

The problem of weak funding structures in certain public sector companies is a major one, since it results in heavier financing burdens and higher production costs. Since 1985-1986, the government has implemented a monetary and credit policy to assist certain production projects to rectify the lack of liquidity and to settle outstanding debts. We hope that this will be the beginning of the application of effective programs to develop financing structures in the public sector.

The government has actually issued bonds, which you had approved, valued at 611 million Egyptian pounds, the interest burden of which will be borne by the budget to cover part of the public sector companies' liabilities to commercial banks. According to these bonds, the Treasury replaces the public sector companies in settling the overdrafts. The deficit in investment funds covered by the bonds is thus regarded as increased capital, added to the finance of public sector companies.

Some public sector companies suffer from idle resources, mainly due to lack of production requirements, inefficient maintainance, occasional power failures, absenteeism, and diminishing demands for certain products because of their low quality. We must be frank. The first 5-year plan, for 1982-1987, has no doubt helped to alleviate many factors behind the idle resources through great achievements in replacing and innovating existing productive structures, thus maintaining their productive capacities, and in refurbishing machines and equipment in many factories. This effort involves technological improvement in production methods.

During the same plan, tangible results were achieved in strengthening the infrastructure of the national economy, particularly in the fields of electricity, transport, communications, and public utilities, since any difficulties in this infrstructure eventually lead to the creation of idle resources in the production sector.

The establishment of the free foreign exchange market, which began its activity in May, 1987 and is now starting to assume a stable position following its initial stages, indicates that the banking system has attracted more foreign currency. Consequently, foreign currencies are now available for productive activities, both in the public and private sectors, to satisfy their need for importing production requirements and to guarantee organized changes in the field of production.

God willing, the coming stage will witness further measures to erase, or at least limit, the effects of the idle resources phenomenon. This will be done through the provision of production material, domestic and local; reconsideration of authority given to companies' boards of directors, authorizing them to make decisions pertaining to the self-financing of maintainance, replacement, and innovation processes so that production lines will not be left idle, either partially or collectively; and the improvement of human resources to broaden the foundation of skilled labor and control individual passive practices, such as unjustified absenteeism, through the efficient use of the principle of punishment and reward.

Another problem facing some public sector companies is the administrative practice of pricing some products at socially acceptable prices far below their actual cost, to protect low-income categories. To handle this problem the government tends to apply a pricing policy reflecting the actual cost calculated according to real bases, so that subsidies, when applied for social reasons, are factored in during the final distribution stage. In this case, the Treasury pays the difference between the actual cost and the subsidized price.

Dealing with the aforementioned problems will undoubtedly improve the position of companies taking losses. As for companies whose economic course cannot be corrected easily, acccording to the findings of the public sectors board of directors, their cases will be referred to their general assemblies for an appropriate decision, whether to merge them with other, similar companies or to specify other solutions serving the public interest.

The second priority issue is developing governmental administration. This means reviewing the organizational structure of the government to avoid the duplication of efforts, simplify procedures and relevant legislation and decrees, achieve optimal use of labor in the government sector, and promote sophisticated data centers.

Therefore, we act to organize government administration through placing all the entities involved in similar or integrated activites under the same supervision, determining the tasks of every entity, and giving immediate supervisors the authority to make swift decisions on matters referred to them. The simplification of procedures and their organizational rules depends on unifying legislation, organizing services, limiting paperwork, adhering to specific time schedules for services granted, applying simple and specific principles in calculating and collecting fees, and finding an appropriate formula to end disputes among government entities, individuals, and institutions.

Tangible achievements have been made in this regard in certain fields during 1987. In the field of exports, for example, procedures for enlistment on the exporters list have been simplified. Inspection by the Import and Export Control Authority for quality control has been made optional for the private sector; and certain export fees were cancelled to save time and effort and relieve the burden on exporters. In the customs field, the passive aspects of temporary permits and drawbacks [preceding word in English] have been dealt with, the role of the

customs fees evaluators has been eliminated, and agreement has been reached to send customs committees to production sites to complete export procedures on site or at assembly points to ensure direct shipping.

As far as imports are concerned, a major customs problem, the assessment bases for customs, which has led to most complaints received has been resolved. Within this context, a number of measures have been implemented, allowing the direct release of imports, avoiding the process of storing and stacking. Furthermore, several measures have been taken with regard to taxes to curb the phenomenon of preliminary estimates. These include the accountancy rules and regulations for some businesses, with a view to determining the actual profits of the investors, without exaggeration. Instructions have been issued forbidding the destruction of books unless absolutely necessary. The government has also shown interest in the swift settlement of tax disputes, whether before tax representatives, appeal committees, or the courts.

With regard to the maximum utilization of labor in the free government sector, efforts are directed toward the implementation of a program to redistribute employees among various entities and train surplus personnel in new areas, such as modern technology, education, and health services. The government will also strongly seek to enhance the principle of rewarding or penalizing government departments by developing incentives regulations, linking them with increased production and revenue rates and developing the current system of evaluating the employees' performances to assess their work clearly. The aim is to select the best for leadership positions and to reconsider the penalties for laziness and negligence.

Work systems are currently being developed, setting up advanced data centers at various departments such as social security, pensions, taxes, customs, and others. Furthermore, work locations and implementation sites have been improved. You have been monitoring this process in many agencies such as posts, telephones, land registry, railroads, civil records, traffic, and recruitment. Work is under way in over 1,000 locations to completely renovate and refurbish buildings, equipment, furnishings, and tools with a view to improving the performance and quality of services being rendered to the public and institutions.

Thus, it is evident that the government has implemented and is seeking to implement integrated policies to raise the standard of the government administration's performance and to eradicate needless bureaucracy. Such measures will definitely gain the confidence of the public and promote the state's prestige.

The third subject on which the president has concentrated, on which the government is focusing, which my colleagues in the government and I consider of vital importance, and which you have dealt with during the past period is land reclamation. Studies indicate that the total area of land that could be reclaimed up to the year 2000 is approximately 2 million feddans. These studies were made in light of current water resources and estimates for increasing them during this period, including underground water in the desert and treated sewage water.

Approximately 325,000 feddans of this land was reclaimed under the 1982-87 plan. The remaining land, totaling approximately 1.7 million feddans, is to be reclaimed under plans beginning in 1987, 1992, and 1997 and ending in 2002.

The government believes that horizontal expansion in agriculture is a must for increasing agricultural production and providing dignified job opportunities for citizens, especially youths. Therefore, a policy has been adopted under which over 150,000 feddans will be reclaimed each year. The main features of this policy are as follows:

1. The state will provide the lands designated for reclamation with the necessary infrastructure, such as canals, drainage pipes, artesian wells, power lines, and roads. The private sector will carry out the internal reclamation work.

2. The state will support local government departments and ensure that there is coordination between them and other government departments to increase the effectiveness of efforts by local authorities to reclaim the largest areas of land.

3. The state will support land reclamation companies, which are considered the tool which executes the reclamation work. This requires tackling all the difficulties restricting their work, such as cash flow problems and red tape entailed in administrative and real estate problems resulting from their engagement in public auction sales and the lack of funds needed to modernize and replace machinery and equipment.

4. The state will encourage various sections of the private sector to invest in this field. To do this, the government will offer a number of facilities, such as identifying and publicizing the areas allocated for the private sector, whether these are adjacent to agricultural lands or lands provided with infrastructure. The government will also define logically the price of fallow and desert lands to be sold to the private sector. The price of these lands is now estimated at 100 to 400 pounds per feddan for lands not provided with infrastructure projects and 400 to 1,000 per feddan for lands with infrastructure projects.

5. The state will continue to avoid engaging in the reclamation of new land and will confine cultivation to specific periods. The government will leave land reclamation to the private sector to encourage individual

initiative for production. As I said earlier, the government will provide facilities for the exploitation of reclaimed land in terms of production input, loans, agricultural machines, and guidance.

6. The government will assist in the expansion of advanced irrigation systems of various types, including the use of sprinklers and the drip method. This entails enormous multi-faceted tasks during the stages of establishment and preparation. Therefore, departments of the Industry Ministry and War Production Ministry will be assigned the task of attaining national self-sufficiency in the equipment necessary for these tasks instead of importing them from abroad, which involves difficulties.

The government realizes that ambitious plans to reclaim and cultivate land are up against certain legislative, procedural, and administrative problems and impediments, the removal of which would enable these projects to be implemented according to plan and at the desired rate. Therefore, the government will not hesitate to take all the necessary measures to achieve this goal. These include, in particular, the incorporation of laws on the use of fallow and desert land into one law aimed at standardizing and facilitating procedures relating to land use, which include law No 143 for the year 1981, law No 43 for the year 1978 which is amended by law No 5 for the year 1981, and law No 100 for the year 1964.

A department specializing in the use of state-owned land will be established and entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the aforementioned law instead of the many sides that are taking this responsibility, such as the general corporation for construction and agricultural projects and the general corporation for land reclamation and governorates' affairs. The choice of an area of land for reclamation requires the approval of several departments.

In present conditions, there can be difficulty in obtaining approval within an appropriate period of time. An applicant has to apply to the departments of archaeology, mines and quarries, and, at times, the Defense Ministry, and so on and so forth. In order to deal with this situation, the department which will have responsibility for fallow and desert land will be assigned the task of preparing maps to define the areas to be reclaimed. The maps will be submitted to all departments whose approval is required, provided that they reply within a specific period, for example 1 or 2 months. Failure to reply would be considered as tantamount to approval.

The land reclamation plans are associated with tasks that form part of the responsibilities of the Ministries of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Electricity. Despite the fact that these ministries participate in these tasks, the government believes that advanced and increased coordination between the department with responsibility for desert and fallow land and pertinent departments in these ministries is bound to expedite the processing of the required undertakings. We will set up a committee comprising representatives of all these departments and they will abide by its decisions.

There is also the problem of certain people who pretend to own state-owned land so that they may participate in reclamation and cultivation, although they have no serious claim. This is a very grave matter which causes delays in the implementation of reclamation projects. We are currently studying ways to confront this phenomenon and eliminate any legal loopholes in this regard.

We also find that the general agrarian reform organization and some governorates have given vast areas of land to cooperative societies to reclaim and use for agriculture. In view of the fact that these societies lack financial resources and technical capabilities, their achievements have not come up to the required level. Irrespective of the reasons for this, the sheer size of the areas of land given to these societies which, according to estimates, exceeds 250,000 feddans, requires the intervention of the government to help these societies to fulfill their tasks.

The practice of selling reclaimed land at public auction should be revised. This practice has had the effect of producing an abnormal rise in land prices and a situation in which rich people who are not farmers will own most of this land. Therefore, the ownership of reclaimed land should be governed by the ability of the owners to farm it.

The fourth subject to which the president paid special attention, as, indeed, has the government, is the reform of the educational system and the spread of cultural enlightenment.

Within the constitutional principles of the state's policy in the field of education, the aims of education can be defined as: building Egyptians capable of facing the future, establishing a productive society, achieving comprehensive development, and preparing a generation of scientists.

The current educational system in Egypt makes it incumbent on us to adopt a new strategy to streamline education in all its phases to achieve the aforementioned aims. The strategy for streamlining pre-university education is based on four principles: increasing the effectivenss of the democracy of education, expanding technical education and raising its standard, devising education programs and linking them to development, and training good teachers.

The democracy of education means the acceptance of all children over 6 years of age to the first elementary class, as compared with the current absorption rate which does not exceed 94 percent. Together with this, we should limit the number of those leaving school during the basic school years.

Such an accomplishment would mean that illiteracy among coming generations will diminish or drop to its lowest level. What a great hope! The achievement of this goal and hope requires more schools and classrooms. Within this framework, the government will set up an adminsitrative unit for the Ministry of Education that will draw up a policy of constructing buildings and providing equipment for schools in order to meet education needs. This unit will supervise the implementation of the work in stages and will control the financial appropriations allocated for this purpose, with the authority to borrow and accept aid and contributions, in addition to encouraging individual efforts to finance schools. Of course, the matter of setting up such a unit will be referred to the esteemed Assembly.

The government has also taken measures regarding admission to secondary schools to expand technical education. The 1987-92 5-year plan provides for the establishment of 100 industrial, agricultural, and commercial secondary schools. The education plan and the concept of technical education are being reviewed now to keep pace with scientific and technological developments and to deal with newly introduced specializations, such as computers, medical equipment technology, and genetic engineering, as well as to enhance the specializations needed to meet social and economic development requirements.

The government is also working toward linking this type of education with professional societies and with employing those engaged in productive institutions in education and training, so that their technical, academic, and practical potential can be used to develop students' individual skills.

The government is also studying the establishment of a single council for technical and vocational education to replace the existing subsidiary councils. The mission of the proposed council will include programming technical education, monitoring society's needs for vocational specializations, and following up and assessing technical education's effects on production, both in terms of quality and quantity and boosting productivity. In addition, all pre-university education curricula and textbooks are being revised. Definitive results have been reached to develop basic education curricula, the effects of which will be apparent during the current school year.

The development of curricula generally aims to accomplish specific goals. Foremost among these are the integrating of subjects in various educational dimensions; directing the concept of education toward basic subjects; enhancing cultural and religious values; respecting human rights; and linking education and collective development requirements. This requires that students be encouraged to participate in practical educational activities and to expand vocational training programs in which companies and institutions involved in various aspects of production can take part.

Examinations are an integral part of the education process. Therefore, they must keep in step with the development of curricula. Examinations must test the student's basic knowledge and his ability to adopt scientific methods in using data and applying them.

Another important aspect of the process of streamlining the educational system is the proper training of teachers so that their methods consist of more than the mere repetition of facts. We want them to be pioneering, instructive, creative, and capable of inculcating scientific knowledge and the spirit of achievement in students.

Our educational strategy with regard to the teaching profession is based on several principles. These include upgrading the teaching profession and raising its social and material level, providing conditions of material and psychological stability for teachers, whose standard of education should not be below that of higher education, providing in-service training for teachers with the aim of raising their cultural standard, developing their capabilities to use the modern scientific methods required by scientific and technological progress in education, and training students in scientific research.

The government's concept of streamlining higher education systems revolves around three principles: the comprehensive planning of higher education, the diversification of the types of universities, and the development of teaching methods.

Within the framework of the first principle, the government emphasizes the qualitative rather than the quantitative expansion of universities. There is no room for establishing new universities or colleges but we must support the existing universities and upgrade their performance. We must also support higher institutes specializing in technical training and teaching. Higher education must be commensurate with the requirements of social and economic development.

Furthermore, the government will reconsider the current traditional and stereotyped pattern of universities. It will establish specialized institutions that will concentrate on certain spheres, as is the case in all the countries of the world. These institutions will serve the strategic activities of comprehensive development, for example, agricultural development, industrial development, and so on. The development of educational systems means developing curricula according to society's needs, the wise selection of teachers and staff providing full-time dedication to their teaching duties, and encouraging scientific research and the promotion of libraries.

There also is a national project to introduce computerized educational systems to consolidate further creative ability, develop skills, enhance the use of modern technology in teaching and self-education, and open new

horizons for technical education. This can be achieved through training teachers in the use of computers for teaching and preparing curricula and for adapting them for use in Egypt.

The government also emphasizes the need to pay attention to Al-Azhar, its leaders, and its curricula as a means of enhancing the role of Al-Azhar graduates in Egypt and the Islamic world and developing their enlightened understanding of religion and life.

The government also affirms that the messages of education and culture are inseparable, because the message of culture cements ties of affiliation and firmly establishes the deep roots of the Egyptian character, particularly among youths. The government's policy in this regard revolves around two axes: First, adopting a national program of culture for children, because it is during childhood that the character is formed and values and desirable codes of behavior established; and second, promoting cultural awareness in various fields.

The government's program for the child's education includes a call for expanding talents in the fields of writing, children's theaters, and art exhibitions, taking care of children's radio and television programs, and encouraging the production of books and magazines for children. The government will also try to simplify educational material for children by putting it into an interesting story format and to provide the childrens' clubs and kindergartens with learning aides.

The government also pursues a policy for spreading education in its general concept not only for providing the citizens with a limited information about education, art, and literature. This comprehensive concept should deal with all aspects of the human character, especially the ideal aspect. Therefore, the government will double its efforts to secure intellectual affinity based on the spiritual and religious values and to confront all the radical ideological currents which are trying to distance religion from its sources and roots. The government will also try to upgrade the level of education. Regarding the historical sites, the renovation process will continue and the completion of the establishment of the museums of Al-Hadrah, Al-Qawmi, Al-Nubah, and Filah, the rock-hewn temples, and Abu Sunbul. In the field of writing, the educational organs are trying to double their efforts to publish selected books on the Egyptian, Arab, and Islamic cultural heritage, and to open book fairs with a special eye on childrens' books and issue the Arab encyclopedia. In order to promote arts both in cities and the countryside, the government intends to promote the threater, music and pay more attention to folklore and figurative arts. The government's program will increase the number of movie houses and pay more attention to the production of educational and documentary films which are a means for spreading education among the masses.

The fifth issue which has received special attention from his excellency, the president, and from the government is that of housing. The government believes in the human being, regarding him as the focus and tool of every development. Therefore, the government believes that a healthy home is an economic and social necessity, as well as a basic factor in building the stabilized and cohesive society which provides an appropriate atmosphere for development activities and increased production.

The housing crisis in our urban areas can be traced to a number of factors, mainly the growing demand for housing as a direct result of high population growth rates, growing rates of migration from rural to urban areas, slowing rates of housing construction during 1960-1979, and deficient maintainance during this same period, which eventually rendered existing houses uninhabitable, on the verge of collapse.

As you know, a national committee was formed in 1979 to discuss the housing problem and propose a national policy to solve it in accordance with sound scientific methods. This committee concluded that in order to eliminate the problem, approximately 3.6 million housing units need to be built in urban areas by the year 2000. Of these housing units, 831,000 were needed to meet backlog demands, 589,000 for the replacement of old housing stock, and 2.18 million to meet the increase in the population.

Furthermore, the committee recommended that this undertaking be implemented on the basis of 5-year plans in which the steady population increase would be taken into account. The plan would also take into consideration the targeted aims of the construction sector, its financial resources, the production of construction materials, and the availability of manpower.

During the period 1980-87, approximately 1.2 million housing units have been built, amounting to one third of our requirements up to the year 2000. The private sector was responsible for over 80 percent of these projects, showing its confidence in contributing to a solution of this problem. Those projects implemented so far are largely in line with the national housing plan as regards the number and standard of the units.

All this means that houses have been built to meet all requirements and cope with the population increase during this period. In addition, new units have been built to replace old ones and to graudally meet the accumulated demand.

Despite all this, a broad section of the people have not felt that there has been any improvement in the situation. This is due to several factors, including the high cost of construction, which has led to high prices, especially for medium-sized and large housing units. The majority of the people cannot afford such prices. Several

housing units remain unoccupied because their owners do not want to sell or rent for various reasons. In new towns, there is also a large number of apartments that are closed up and unused.

In continuing the government's efforts to implement a nationwide housing plan, there is a plan for the construction and completion of about 1 million housing units during the 1987-92 plan. About 900,000 of these will be in urban areas and 100,000 will be built on reclaimed land. Of the urban units, 69.8 percent will be in the low price range and 26.9 in the medium price range. The housing plan will allocate a lower number of houses to the higher priced sector as there is now a surplus in this category of houses. Therefore the percentage of houses of this type will not exceed 3.3.

This plan also provides for the private sector to build 97.8 percent of urban housing and the public sector to build 2.2 percent. Investments have been estimated at about 6.8 billion pounds, 6.6 billion of which is designated for the private sector and 200 million for the public sector. Thus the total number of housing units, including those which have been constructed and those to be built in Egypt's urban areas by 1992, will be about 2.2 million. The remaining 1.4 million units will have to be constructed between 1992 and 2000, so that the housing problem can be completely eliminated and the demand for housing can be met.

The government is adopting the following policies for the implementation of the housing scheme in the next 5 years:

1. The provision of more building sites within the cities. These are used for nonresidential purposes by military camps and small industries by providing alternative places for them outside the cities, and removing those who occupy government and public sector lands, replanning the poor quarters inside the cities, and defining the empty pieces of land inside the cities for construction purposes. This requires the reconsideration of the current legal and administrative procedures. Construction plans should also be completed to establish new quarters and residential areas outside the cities. Such new areas and cities are a basic means for meeting the requirements of the population increase and creating new centers of production. These pieces of land will be offered at the cost of their facilities. The government is also trying to prevent land speculation by giving people the right to benefit through construction on the land. This right will be withdrawn if these lands are not used for construction.
2. The provision of building materials and improved economic use of such material. The government's policy in this regard can be summed up as follows:
   A. Abiding by a national plan for production and importing and providing construction material to overcome the obstacles preventing implementation of projects with a concentration on reinforcement bars, cement, and bricks.
   B. Providing investments and technical expertise for establishing and operating new factories and expanding existing factories to produce construction materials within specific periods.
   C. Preparing a comprehensive map to define locations and quantities of raw materials for construction in all areas of the country and utilizing the available building materials in each area in construction within that area whenever possible.
   D. Working to find local alternatives to imported wood, such as metal strips, aluminium, and metal doors and windows.
3. Support for the construction sector through the following:
   A. Studying the establishment of a central organ for construction on the national level to regulate construction activity and needs, achieve coordination between the sides interested in this issue in both the public and private sectors, and follow up this organ's work on the national level.
   B. Increasing the number of training centers, supporting the current centers, and selecting some places in cities and villages known as places of concentrations of human resources in the construction field.
   C. Expanding the use of machinery in the construction sectors by manufacturing new construction machinery and encouraging the establishment of special companies for providing, leasing, and operating machinery to enable the contracting companies to use new construction technology.
   D. Correcting any mistates in financing the contracting companies and dealing with the reasons behind their losses.
4. The maximum utilization of existing housing units either by reducing the number of unused apartments or by seeing to the maintenance of existing buildings, which are considered part of the national wealth. The means to realise this include:
   A. Encouraging settlement in the new cities and facilitating procedures for them to obtain their own closed units in terms of financial supply.
   B. Drawing up controls for distributing houses without harming the rights of the seller and the buyer.
   C. Drawing up controls for a fair distribution of the economy and subsided houses to those who really need them.
   D. Encouraging the idea of individual and collective participation in running and maintaining the buildings both in housing units and quarters to provide as much maintenance as possible for real estate.

Mr speaker, brother and sister members of the venerated Assembly: My reappointment as prime minister is a trust in which I take pride and a responsibility which I welcome. It is an opportunity for us to continue efforts in the various fields of national action. These efforts have

begun to bear fruit in production increases and the promising recovery of the national economic situation.

Having presented the government's concepts and policies in various fields, the government promises to act as one team and to make its utmost efforts to meet its national responsibility with all honesty and patience and in a positive and creative collaboration with all constitutional and popular institutions.

No matter how much effort it makes, the government cannot shoulder the burden of national action alone, without support and participation from you, the representatives of this great people, majority and opposition alike, or without the positive participation of various groups of our people in the construction and development process.

Despite the difficulties and challenges facing the process of economic and social development in Egypt, we have great hopes, based on our faith in God's grace and the potentials of Egypt and its people, to keep the march going full force in order to increase production and thus raise the people's standard of living.

Democracy will remain our approach and only course to enhance further freedom of expression in order to arrive at clear concepts and correct and objective solutions for the various problems facing us.

From the depth of my heart, which trusts the awareness of this great people and their creative capabilities, as well as the conscientiousness of our loyal representatives, I pray to God to lead our confident steps along the correct course and to crown with success our efforts to achieve well-being, prosperity, and progress for Egypt and its great people. May God endow us with faith in our ability. May He guide us all to success in the service of our dear Egypt. He is the best procuror and the best helper. [Koranic verse]. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

## Libya

### Links With Armed Egyptian Group Refuted

*LD241012 Tripoli JANA in English 0920 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] Egyptian capital, Al-Harth [November] 24, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The public prosecution in Egypt accused 15 Egyptian citizens yesterday of what it called "contacting Libya" and planning to launch armed operations against some U.S. and Israeli institutions and interests in Egypt including the assassination of the Zionist ambassador and bombing the bus that goes from the Egyptian capital to occupied Palestine.

The Egyptian Government *Middle East News Agency* conveyed the text of the prosecution case in this respect in which it alleged that the accused had a link with Jamahiriyah and they were also inside an organisation based upon the use of force and violence against the ruling regime of Egypt.

This organisation was accused of being behind the bombing incident outside the Egypt-America International Bank on 29.11.1986.

The accusation bill pointed out that a cache of arms and ammunition and leaflets were found with the accused. It claimed that a number of this group's members have travelled to Jamahiriyah and received training there.

*Reuter* news agency reported the news by saying that many of those named in the accusation bill were lawyers and students all of whom were Nasirites calling for the return of Egypt to adopt the anti-U.S. anti-Israelis stance.

JANA's Arab affairs editor commented by saying: "We do not find it strange that such an official declaration—in which the authorities of the Egyptian regime stress that those Egyptian citizens had close relations with Jamahiriyah and that it had instigated them [and] provided them with the required potentials to strike at Zionist and U.S. interests in Egypt and to use force in fighting the ruling regime there...That was because we have been accustomed to hearing ready-made charges prepared by the Egyptian regime and made each time there was an interaction and signs of popular revolution in Egypt and its strikes were more precisely directed towards the outcome of the David Stable accords, its signs and those who are guarding them. If the revolutionary initiative was an individual separate incident by one of Egypt's loyal sons, then its launcher is a madman...If the scale of the revolution is widening, then a foreign hand must be behind it...Here the Egyptian regime does not need an effort or endeavour in searching for the concerned hand; there is Jamahiriyah, the only beneficiary from resisting the trend of normalisation with the enemy and its outcome. Such is the habit of the Egyptian regime".

The editor added: "What has the text of the accusation charge—which was worded by the Egyptian authorities—included; it had exposed the persistence of this regime to normalize Egypt's relations with the Zionist enemy and had revealed that the process of normalisation is at its peak, for after its severing its contacts with the Arabs, it laid down the lines of contact with the Zionists for the purpose of "Israelisation" [of] Egypt and becomes truly "Egyisrael". [quotation marks as received]

[The] Arab affairs editor confirmed that what had the Egyptian regime's authorities announced yesterday will expose the hardship this regime is experiencing and which can be summarised in the following two facts:

First—the popular rejection movement in Egypt has responded to the David Stable regime so that it has developed on the hands of its free people to take the form of a popular revolution which had dealt its armed strikes sometimes at the symbols of normalisation and at the Zionist-U.S. presence in a way that the Egyptian regime did not find—faced with danger of this phenomenon—any way out except admitting it and announcing it no matter what its justifications were or the peg that it hangs its causes on.

Second—if planning to hit Zionist-Egyptian interests and resisting the signs of normalisation with [the] enemy, then they are accusations those who specified them as their targets should be referred to the prosecution and [a] search should be made on the foreign interests that finance them.

Let the Egyptian regime give its decision to refer the Egyptian masses in the streets, universities and factory to investigations and take the initiative of arresting all patriots—lawyers, dons, intellectuals and all those who had burnt the Zionist flag and chanted against defeatism and normalisation—will the Egyptian regime then put the burden of the responsibility of supporting the Arab people in Egypt and instigating it on Jamahiriyah.

### General People's Planning Committee Meets

*LD231934 Tripoli JANA in English 1801 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 23, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The General People's Committee for Planning held its 8th ordinary meeting this evening at the Secretariat's building in Tripoli.

During this meeting, discussion centred on the means of implementing the resolutions of the Basic People's Congresses regarding the planning sector and following-up the process of preparing the transformation budget for 1988.

In this meeting, the committee reviewed the outcome of the scientific seminar on the method of jamahiri planning which has recently been held in Misratah town.

### Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Panamanian Party Official

*LD231827 Tripoli JANA in English 1040 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 23, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The leader of the revolution has received Mr Luiz Solerz, leader of the National Party of Panama [name of leader and party as received], and his accompanying delegation who are currently on a visit to Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Present at this meeting was the ambassador of Panama accredited to Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

## Morocco

### UN Mission on Sahara Conflict Welcomed

*LD191550 Rabat MAP in English 1345 GMT 19 Nov 87*

[Text] Rabat, Nov 19 (MAP)—The United Nations' mission in charge of collecting technical information and data on the Western Sahara is expected tomorrow, Friday, in El Aioun, coming from Geneva. This mission is to transmit to U.N. secretary general and president of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) the elements they would be needing to continue their efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Sahara problem. Last October 12, a communique of the U.N. bureau (?in) Rabat had specified that this mission will head for the Sahara for an approximately two-week visit, with stop-overs in Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania.

Chaired by 'Abd al-Rahim Farah, assistant secretary general for special political affairs, the mission is composed of some 15 U.N. experts specialized in operations of maintaining peace, security, logistics, social and public administration and legal and electoral questions.

The dispatching of this mission had been known since last September 24. On that day, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar had announced his decision to dispatch this mission. The Moroccan officials had immediately made it known that they were very satisfied with this decision, since they had already agreed to it months ago. Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation had, on the same occasion, refuted statements claiming the mission intended to "make propositions for the withdrawal of the Moroccan Army and administration" or "to neutralize the Army."

These officials referred those behind such allegations to the very text of the U.N. communique. The text clearly specifies the mission's objective by stressing that it sought to collect information and "make propositions likely to facilitate negotiations with the parties with a view to concluding a cease-fire and holding a referendum."

In his speech on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the Green March, King Hassan II had expressed satisfaction over the fact that the Sahara question has finally been placed in the hands of U.N. secretary general.

"Through our patience, our perseverance and our hard work," the monarch had then said, "we have succeeded in making known the question and we have obtained an important result: The dossier is taken up by the U.N. and is entrusted to the secretary general. We consider this step as a very great victory. This will permit us all, and most particularly the international community, to tell the truth from lies."

It is thus with relief and serenity that Morocco welcomes the U.N. mission, whose conclusions will undoubtedly contribute to the process begun by the U.N. secretary general to organize a referendum which will put an end to the conflict in the north-west African region and remove all ambiguity by re-establishing the truth in the universal conscience.

### Delegation Arrives in Fes

*LD201659 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Nov 87*

[Text] At 1400 GMT this afternoon, the UN commission responsible for gathering information and collecting technical data on the Western Sahara situation arrived in the city of Fes. This commission is led by Mr 'Abd al-Rahim Farah, the assistant secretary general for special political affairs. The commission is composed of 15 UN experts in peacekeeping operations, security, logistics, social and public administration, and legal and electoral issues. The UN commission was welcomed at Fes-Sais Airport by Mr Driss Slaoui, Morocco's permanent representative to the UN, and Mr Moulay Mehdi Alaoui Mrani, his majesty's governor of Fes Province.

### Travels to El Aioun

*LD211442 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Excerpt] The UN commission responsible for obtaining data and information on the Western Sahara situation arrived in El Aioun this afternoon. It is led by 'Abd al-Rahim Farah, assistant UN secretary general for ad hoc political affairs. The delegation was welcomed at Hassan I Airport by Driss Basri, Moroccan minister of the interior and information; Driss Slaoui, Morocco's permanent representative to the United Nations; and Saleh Zemraq, the king's representative in the El Aioun region. [passage omitted]

## Sudan

### Al-Mahdi Pledges To Recapture Kurmuk

*PM231125 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Nov 87 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Al-Mahdi: There Will Be No Talk of Peace Before Kurmuk Is Liberated"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum—Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has pledged that the Sudanese Armed Forces will recapture the town of Kurmuk no matter what sacrifices are required. The Sudanese Armed Forces withdrew from Kurmuk last Thursday after that town suffered 1 week's worth of heavy artillery and rocket shelling by SPLA forces based in Ethiopia. John Garang is the leader of the SPLA movement. The prime minister added: The Sudanese Armed Forces destroyed the Ethiopian sector of Kurmuk in retaliation for Ethiopian shelling.

Al-Mahdi, who was was speaking to Sudanese political party leaders and local press editors the day before yesterday, said that Ethiopia's direct intervention in Sudan was motivated by internal Ethiopian circumstances since rebels from the Aromo tribe recently occupied two Ethiopian towns. The Ethiopian response to this was to shell Kurmuk.

The prime minister also said the Sudanese Armed Forces had sufficient forces in Kurmuk to repulse any rebel attack. He stated these forces withdrew when the town came under heavy Ethiopian missile bombardment. Al-Madhi added that, despite what had happened, his government has not abandoned its belief in the importance of achieving a peaceful settlement. However, "it is impossible to speak of peace before Kurmuk is completely liberated."

The Sudanese prime minister commented that the Ethiopian ambassador to Khartoum was summoned and given a strongly worded protest of the shelling of Kurmuk. [passage omitted]

### Sanadah on 'Rebels,' Kurmuk, Ethiopian Stands

*JN231758 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Khartoum, Nov. 23, (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah met with the ambassador of the African and Arab countries accredited to the Sudan, here Monday. The minister, who met the ambassadors separately, explained that he had briefed the ambassadors on the Sudan's commitment to democratic life and guarantee of citizen's basic rights.

The minister also said he had stressed to the ambassadors the possibility of resolving Sudan's internal issues through dialogue pointing to the steps that have been taken, in this frame, by the concerned authorities in the country since April 1985 popular uprising and their acceptance to mediations from outside the country, among them, the mediation of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and that of the ex-President of Nigeria Obasanjo.

Further, the minister pinpointed that all those efforts have led to no results and that the rebels have continued launching their attacks on relief trains and civil planes.

The minister said that Ethiopia was concealing its real intentions. Because during his recent visit to Sudan the Ethiopian vice president had confirmed the improvement of the Sudanese-Ethiopian relations.

Dr Sanadah said the Ethiopian act contradicts the principle of good neighbourliness and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Charter especially the principles of respect of regional borders, the sovereignty of each state and the non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries.

Dr Sanadah said the Sudanese Armed Forces will retake the border town of Kurmuk soon the measures being taken by the government to actualize peace can not be turn into capitulationism, the minister said. [sentence as received]

He said that it is only when those carrying arms are convinced that dialogue is the sole path of solving problems and then stop fighting that the Armed Forces can cease fire and pave way for the organization of constitutional conference to discuss all the problems of the countries.

The foreign minister asked the African and Arab ambassadors to inform their respective countries on his statement. Meanwhile the minister told journalists that Sudan had not filed any complaint against Ethiopia before the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

### Press Asked Not To Report on Military Matters

*EA230548 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] Mr Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm, deputy minister for culture and information and government spokesman, is requesting all newspapers and correspondents to refrain from exposing information on the Armed Forces: their movements and preparations, statistics on their military strength, and reports that would harm the national security of Sudan.

The official spokesman stressed that the press would receive all due attention and appreciation for its great national role in the information sector and in conveying facts to the people. He also stressed the attention being accorded to the press by the state. The state has asked all newspapers to submit the names of their representatives for consideration as field correspondents. These people would then accompany the Armed Forces on operations to cover news and various activities.

### Agricultural Workers Begin 1-Week Strike

*JN222020 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 22 (SUNA)—Today (Sunday) the Agricultural Trade Union began a week-long strike to demand better working conditions. Trade Union Chairman Dr Gamal al-Ballal [name as received] said Sunday that the strike follows the failure of the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance to respond to the demands of the [word indistinct]. These are to eliminate the disparities between their salaries and those of professions in other sectors and for agricultural researchers working in the agricultural research corporation to have working conditions identical to those of university lecturers.

### 'Legal Measures' Planned Against Teachers

*JN211937 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1712 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Nov (SUNA)—The Executive Office of the Union of Agricultural Workers has announced the implementation of a declared strike. It becomes effective tomorrow, Sunday, and will last until Sunday, 29 November. In a statement issued today, the agronomists announced that their demands for improved working conditions as well as some professional demands have not been (?satisfactorily) implemented.

On the other hand, Minister of Education Bakri 'Adil today decided to allow legal measures to be taken against secondary schoolteachers who went on strike last week. They are demanding improved working conditions.

### Union Rejects Penalties

*JN221959 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 22 (SUNA)—The Secondary Schoolteachers Trade Union rejected the education minister's decisions penalizing teachers who went on strike last week, says a statement issued by the Union here Sunday. The trade union confirmed the legitimacy of the strike as it had submitted a warning and informed the General Registrar of Trade Unions with the strike. The trade union asked its bases to maintain self-control taking into consideration the country's interest.

They warned that if the said penalties are applied to any teacher, the trade union would go on a strike for another week. "The next step will be to go on a ten-day strike by December 27 and teachers will not participate in marking the papers of the Sudan's school certificate examination's," said Chairman of the Union Muhammad al-Katim.

## Tunisia

### Council for National Security Established

*LD231357 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1310 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Carthage, 23 Nov TAP—Within the framework of the consolidation of governmental work, the president of the Republic has decided on the creation of a Council for National Security under the chairmanship of the president of the Republic with the following membership:

the prime minister;

the minister of state in charge of national defense;

the foreign minister;

the interior minister;

the secretary of state attached to the interior minister;

the armies' chief of staff attached to the minister of state in charge of national defense; and

the chief of military security.

This Council will be in charge of collecting, studying, analyzing, and assessing all the security information and data concerning national security on the levels of the interior, foreign, and defense policies with the aim of safeguarding the internal and external state security. [passage indistinct]

### Discovery of 'Gang of Malefactors' Revealed

*LD231641 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] His excellency the president of the Republic, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, chaired the first meeting of the Council for National Security at the Republic Palace in Carthage this morning. It was devoted to looking into the security situation in the country. Following this meeting, which was joined by the information minister, the following communique was issued:

The national security services have been able to uncover a gang of malefactors who were the subject of interest and surveillance by these services since last September. A quantity of individual military weapons, ammunition, explosives, and radio equipment was confiscated from this gang on 16 November.

This gang was planning to carry out terrorist operations aimed at assassinating a number of officials and at attacking civilian and security installations. The interior minister will hold a press conference on Wednesday 25 November during which he will explain the details and dimensions of this matter.

### Military Personnel Apprehended

*NC231750 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1726 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Tunis, 23 Nov (MENA)—Official Tunisian sources have told a MENA correspondent in Tunis that the organization which was unveiled today, and whose members were apprehended in Tunis on 16 November, includes military personnel conspiring against the state's security.

### Strengthening of Public Organizations Urged

*LD201142 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Nov 87*

[Excerpts] The state of public organizations and studying ways to ensure greater returns so that they can best shoulder their responsibility was the subject of the working session chaired by His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning at the Republican Palace in Carthage. The session was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and a number of government members. Following the session, his excellency the president made the following statement:

The state of public organizations is one of the most important of our preoccupations due to the distinguished place these organizations occupy in the national economy in both the (?production) and manpower fields. We are determined to provide favorable conditions to enable the organizations to shoulder the role assigned to them in promoting the economy and strengthening its return without adding more burdens to the state. Our policy in this field is centered first on strengthening the national organizations and giving their activities more importance and usefulness so that they will contribute with greater effectiveness to realizing the desired objectives.

The most important measures in this connection are: Guiding the organizations when they make decisions; promoting the action bodies, particularly boards of directors; applying greater control through supervisory bodies; and making sure the right man is put in the right position.

Second, gradually doing away with some organizations where it has become clear there is no useful purpose in maintaining them at the expense of the state because the private sector is more qualified to carry out their activities, which belong to the competitive sector. The process of disbanding them will take place under Law (?1087), which regulates the terms for restructuring some of the public organizations and approved a number of incentives, concessions, and guarantees ensuring (?easy) transfer from the public sector to the private sector while at the same time safeguarding the gains of the national group and the rights of the workers in these organizations. [passage omitted]

We are confident that all citizens fully realize the importance of the challenges that we are facing along the road of our development and, consequently, the need to concert national (?efforts) and mobilize all the energies for the sake of (?living up) to these challenges and (?winning them over) for development.

### Official on Meeting With Ben Ali, Baccouche

*LD232159 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1355 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Carthage, 23 Nov (TAP)—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, in the presence of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, met this morning at the presidential palace in Carthage with members of the Social and Economic Council Bureau, headed by Council Chairman Mohamed Nasser, who made the following statement at the end of the meeting:

"We briefed his excellency the president on the recent activity of the Social and Economic Council, particularly following its reformation. We presented his excellency with the first copy of the Council's views of the seventh plan, which was printed and published recently. We also

briefed his excellency the president on the questions being studied by the Council within the framework of its undertakings concerning prospects for socioeconomic development and the challenges up to the year 2000. [quotation marks as received]

The meeting enabled Bureau members to stress to the president the Council's readiness to contribute within the framework of his historic 7 November statement. We also reviewed what this Destourian institution can achieve.

In this respect the president decided to form a committee which he entrusted with revising the law related to the Social and Economic Council and asked for its proposals within 2 weeks.

The committee's members are Hamed Abed and Mohamed Djerbi on behalf of the prime minister; Mohamed Nasser and Mohamed Ghenima for the Social and Economic Council; Habib Majoul and Abdelaziz Ben Dhia for the House of Deputies, and Mohamed Charfi, a university professor.

### Defense Minister Receives Soviet Rear Admiral

*LD201438 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Nov 87*

[Text] Tunis, 20 Nov (TAB)—Slaheddine Baly, minister of state for national defense, received at the Ministry of Defense this morning Rear Admiral V.G. Yegorov, commander of the Soviet Mediterranean fleet, who is paying a visit to Tunisia from 17 to 21 November leading a Soviet Navy detachment consisting of two antisubmarine warships, the *Komsomolets Ukrainy* and the *Skoryy*, which are currently anchored in La Goulette Harbor. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss bilateral relations.

### Baccouche Meets Soviet Admiral

*LD201813 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Nov 87*

[Text] In the field of Tunisian-Soviet cooperation, Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche met this afternoon at Casbah Government Palace with Rear Admiral Vladimir Yegorov, the commander of the Soviet fleet in the Mediterranean. The guest described the meeting as warm and friendly, stressing that Mr Hedi Baccouche had expressed deep interest in all the issues discussed. The Soviet military official expressed hopes that his visit would bolster the existing good relations between the two countries. Rear Admiral Vladimir Yegorov is in Tunisia during the visit of two units of the Soviet fleet at La Goulette Harbor from 17 to 21 November.

### Tunis Reports Modification to Penal Code

*LD231234 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Excerpt] The change which occurred on 7 November 1987, and which took place in a civilized way within constitutional legality, met your legitimate ambitions and hopes for an honorable life based on justice, equity, and respect for the rights of individual and groups. This was achieved within the framework of a new orientation which the people deserved because of the high level of the nation's political awareness and maturity. This was said by his excellency the president of the Republic, Zine El Abedine Ben Ali in his address to the people last Monday evening [16 November]. Practical implementation of this was achieved 4 days later.

Yesterday morning at the House of Deputies the new measures concerning remand in custody were ratified to safeguard the rights of the citizen and to bolster his liberties and his status within a developed and civilized society which respects the human being and secures his full freedom and rights.

These measures, which were urgently requested by the people, dealt with Articles 13, 57, 83, 85, 86, 87, and 142 of the penal code and thus makes the penal code more consistent with protection of the dignity of the citizens and safeguards their liberties. The modification consists practically in the fact that remand in custody cannot extend beyond 4 days. It can be extended only by written permission from the Republic's prosecutor for 4 days in the first instance and if really necessary for another 2 days.

It is possible for the person in custody, or his immediate relatives, to ask for a medical examination to be carried out either within the period of custody or after it. Article 85 also stipulates that remand in custody for misdemeanours or crimes, or when there is strong evidence that remand in custody is necessary for security reasons, would not exceed 6 months. If the accused remains in detention for further investigation, the judge in charge of the investigation can, after consulting the Republic's prosecutor and if such a decision is justified, extend the detention period once for misdemeanor and twice for crime, on the sole condition that neither of the two extensions should exceed 6 months. [passage omitted]

## Western Sahara

### Joint UN-OAU Commission To Make Visit

*LD232151 Algiers APS in English 1120 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Algiers, November 23 (APS)—Both the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity [OAU] have always been attached to an authentic decolonization in Western Sahara and opposed to the Moroccan fait accompli in this territory. Thus and in conformity with the principles of their respective charters, the OAU

and the United Nations did not stop since 1963 asking Spain to decolonize Western Sahara a territory it used to rule. In November 1966 the OAU Ministerial Council asked Madrid to "grant liberty and independence to all its territories in Africa." In September 1969 and March and August 1970, the OAU invited Spain to abide by the "UN resolutions dealing with the legitimate right of self-determination to the population of Western Sahara."

In 1969 and 1970, the OAU summit asked once again Madrid to start decolonization of Western Sahara.

Nevertheless, in 1969 in the United Nations and despite Morocco's and Mauritania's protests, the "Spanish" Sahara is put on the list of the territories concerned with the implementation of the declaration on the granting of independence to the colonized countries and peoples, adopted by the United Nations in 1960. It is precisely since then that the UN Committee of Decolonization examined every year the situation in this territory so it is worth recalling that in June 1966, Morocco and Mauritania proposed the Western Sahara independence before the Committee of Decolonization.

With the beginning of the Sahrawi people armed struggle, on May 1973, led by the Polisario Front, the United Nations and the OAU adopted a stand favorable to the Sahrawi people's sovereignty and liberty. They rejected, in this context, the tripartite accord of Madrid and admitted the legitimacy of the struggle led by the Sahrawi people under the Polisario leadership, for its independence.

On March 27, 1975, the Committee of Decolonization decided the sending of a mission to Western Sahara, to collect information on the situation in the territory and make proposals for its decolonization. This three-member mission was led by the current Ivorian foreign affairs minister, Simeon Ake, Cote d'Ivoire representative at the United Nations, at that time.

After a complete and impartial analysis, of the Sahrawi issue, the mission imposed the right to self-determination for the Sahrawi people and the exercise of this right, thanks to a consultation under the UN control. The process backed by the whole of the international community could not be implemented because of Morocco's intransigence.

It is therefore in order to raise this obstacle to allow the implementation of the peace plan and following the failure of the direct parley between Morocco and the Polisario Front, and a series of direct but secret contacts between the two belligerents, that the UN secretary general and the OAU acting president decided to send once again a joint technical UN and OAU Commission to Western Sahara.

**Demonstration Protests Moroccan Presence**

*LD231950 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Saharans have demonstrated in El Aioun, Western Sahara, on the occasion of the visit of the UN-OAU technical mission to protest the Moroccan military presence in Western Sahara.

According to a Saharan communique, the demonstrators carried banners with the national colors of the SDAR, chanted national slogans, and called for the evacuation of the Moroccan invading forces and for direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front. The communique said that Moroccan forces then carried out a campaign of arrests among the Saharan inhabitants of El Aioun. A large number of youths were put under Moroccan military control on the eve of the UN-OAU technical mission's visit.

## Inter-Gulf Affairs

### Meeting of GCC Defense Ministers Concludes

#### 'Text' of Final Statement

*JN221932 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1756 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Nov (WAKH)—The defense ministers of the GCC member states have decided to promote military cooperation, strengthen integration, and increase coordination among their armed forces to collectively confront the dangers threatening the safety and security of their states.

At the conclusion of their meetings here this evening, the defense ministers stressed the need to bolster defense coordination as quickly as possible, in accordance with the goals stipulated in the collective defense strategy.

The defense ministers also decided to submit recommendations on further defensive cooperation among member states to the eighth session of the Supreme Council. It will meet in Riyadh in December.

The ministers additionally said that due to the critical circumstances prevailing in the region, intensive meetings and contacts between the armed forces of the member states should take place. This will display determination, a unity of purpose, and a cohesive position.

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah read a statement by the defense ministers. It noted that these officials examined the regional situation in light of recent developments, growing tension, and the increasing dangers that threaten both regional and international security and stability. The following is the text of the final statement:

Their highnesses and excellencies the defense ministers of the GCC member states held their sixth meeting in Abu Dhabi from 21 to 22 November 1987. It was chaired by His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum, UAE minister of defense. The ministers examined the situation in the region in view of recent developments, the growing tension, and the growth of dangers threatening regional and international stability and security.

The ministers also examined the decisions of their majesties and highnesses during the meetings of the GCC Supreme Council. These decisions affirmed that the security of the member states is inseparable, and that any threat against one member state is considered a threat against them all. These officials decided to promote military cooperation, bolster the bases of integration, and increase coordination among the armed forces of the member states. This will allow them to collectively confront the dangers threatening the safety and security of the GCC states. They also stressed the need to bolster defensive cooperation as quickly as possible in accordance with the goals enumerated in the collective defense strategy.

The ministers reviewed the report of the chairman of the military committee. They additionally considered the recommendations of the committees and the technical working teams produced by the military committee. The ministers reviewed what had been submitted by the chiefs of staff on these recommendations. Due to the importance of these suggestions, particularly those linking the countries together in critical fields, the ministers decided to approve them and to call on the military committee of the General Secretariat to follow up their implementation, in cooperation with the member states.

The ministers also decided to submit recommendations on further defensive cooperation to the eighth session of the Supreme Council. It will be held in Riyadh in December 1987. These officials believe that in view of the critical circumstances in the region, they should increase the talks that they hold and that contacts among the armed forces of the member states should be intensified. This will demonstrate a unified determination, cohesive resolution, and also strengthen the unity of word and deed.

The ministers expressed their appreciation for the important role played by both the military committee of the General Secretariat and its working teams. The ministers believe that these working teams should increase their consultations to more quickly accomplish the objectives set by the Supreme Council. They also expressed profound thanks and the most sincere gratitude to the UAE, led by His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. This is in response to the general hospitality, the noble feelings, and the profound offering they experienced. The ministers additionally praised the excellent arrangements and outstanding preparations made for the success of this meeting. These feelings are coupled with great praise and profound thanks to His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al-Maktum, UAE minister of defense, for his great efforts, his able management of the sessions, and for the fraternal spirit that contributed to attaining the positive results mentioned in the resolutions of the meeting. The ministers additionally thanked officials from the UAE Ministry of Defense for their dedication and efforts over these past 2 days. The ministers then decided to hold their seventh meeting next year in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

#### Kuwaiti Minister on Talks

*LD221912 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1721 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 22 Nov (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation departed Abu Dhabi

this evening to return to Kuwait. This followed their participation in the sixth meeting of the GCC defense ministers, which ended earlier today.

Shaykh Salim told KUNA before departing Abu Dhabi that the meeting was successful and that it was held in a spirit of fraternity and cooperation. He reaffirmed the need to make all necessary efforts to fulfill the aspirations of the armed forces and the ambitions of the governments and peoples of the GCC member states.

In discussing the recent events that took place in Kuwait, Shaykh Salim said that Kuwait is ready to confront any eventuality. He added the the recurrence of these events remains likely and that it is possible to confront them with ease.

Shaykh Salim then commented on Kuwait's intention to establish an antimissile network. He indicated that bids on air defense systems able to accommodate these missiles are being examined and that "we hope they will perform effectively should they be employed."

He noted that Egyptian-Kuwaiti military cooperation has not ended and still continues. Shaykh Salim stated that "we value Egypt's expertise," indicating that the Egyptians had acquired knowledge in many wars and that they are experienced in using both Eastern and Western arms. Shaykh Salim added that this Arab expertise should be successfully exploited, rather than employing foreign expertise in this sector. He concluded: "The basis of our meeting of defense ministers is to benefit from one another's expertise." [passage omitted]

### On Foreign Military Presence

*LD240932 Kuwait KUNA in English 0839 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 24 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah repeated here Tuesday earlier public statements that foreign military fleets have not reached the waters of the Gulf to protect the countries of the region.

He added that the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war has contributed to such an increased foreign presence which started after Iran began to attack international commercial ships, eventually leading to the coming of the foreign powers to protect their ships.

Shaykh Salim's remarks came in an interview with the daily "*Al-Ittihad*" newspaper.

Asked about Iranian missile attacks on Kuwait, the Kuwaiti defense minister said that Kuwait has taken certain precautions to deal with these "Silkworm" missiles after consulting with experts on the best means of meeting this type of threat.

"Kuwait has the right to deal with this (threat) with wisdom. At the same time, orders to the different commands of our forces are clear, frank and instruct to face any unfriendly target whatever its kind and size," Shaykh Salim emphasized.

The Kuwaiti official pointed out that Kuwait's requests from the permanent members of the Security Council to re-register Kuwaiti oil tankers were a "pure commercial enterprise" many countries have done in the past.

"We look at the operation from a political point of view," Shaykh Salim said. "We are unable now to determine the results because the deal is continuing."

On a different issue, the minister responded to a question on the military coordination among the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

He said, "it is not an easy task to accomplish such a crucial matter over a short period of time. But our military commanders are working continuously and very hard in conjunction with several sub-committees under the supervision of the military committee of the General Secretariat (of the GCC)."

He stressed that while the protection of international waters is the responsibility of the international community, the protection of regional territories and waters is the responsibility of "our countries and forces."

To meet our responsibility, Shaykh Salim said that Kuwait is serious about the compulsory military service which was established nearly ten years ago.

He noted that up to now the training academy supervising the service trained 18 cadet officers groups—university graduates—and 24 other groups—non-university graduates.

### Ministers Depart

*JN221947 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent, departed Abu Dhabi this evening following his participation in the sixth meeting of the defense ministers of the GCC states. The ministers ended their talks here this evening.

Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; Skaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of defense; and Al-Mutasim ibn Hamud Al Bu Sa'id, Omani minister of state for defense affairs, also left Abu Dhabi this evening.

The departing ministers were seen off by His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum, UAE minister of defense; Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id

al-Badi, UAE chief of staff; 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the GCC; and Sayf al-Maskari, GCC assistant secretary general for political affairs.

### Iran Strikes Panamanian, Romanian Vessels

*JN231231 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Iran has escalated its attacks on foreign vessels and tankers in the Gulf. This morning, Iranian speedboats attacked two ships near the Strait of Hormuz. The first vessel, the Panamanian-flagged container ship *Uni-Master*, entered the Gulf this morning en route to the Saudi port of Ad Dammam. It was struck while 50 nautical miles northeast of Saqr port, off Ra's al-Khaymah. Fire broke out on board, but no casualties were reported among its crew.

The Iranian speedboats also attacked the Romanian cargo ship *Fundulea*, which was in the same area. Three members of its crew were wounded. They were were transported by helicopter to the Ra's al-Khaymah Hospital.

### UK Helicopter Aids 'Fundulea'

*LD232132 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2053 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[By Colin Randall of the *Daily Telegraph* in a pooled despatch from the destroyer *HMS York* in the central Gulf]

[Text] A helicopter from a Navy frigate protecting British-flagged merchant shipping in the Gulf went to the aid of a Romanian tanker set ablaze by an Iranian gunboat in the Strait of Hormuz.

The Lynx helicopter was sent from the 3556-ton *Battleaxe* after the Romanian vessel, *Fundulea*, came under attack from rocket-propelled grenades and machine gun fire two miles inside Omani territorial waters.

Capt Tom Blackburn, commander of the British Armilla Patrol in the Gulf, said the Lynx went "on humanitarian grounds" to help in search and rescue operations.

On arriving at the scene 15 minutes after the attack, the Lynx crew found the 8750-ton tanker "well ablaze" with the crew abandoning ship.

An Omani helicopter was reported to have rescued badly-injured crewmen while a Dutch tug took off the master, second officer and cook.

The Lynx made a sea search in case any of the tanker's crew had gone overboard but none was found.

Capt Blackburn speaking on board the type 42 destroyer, *York*, which is providing cover for minesweepers in the central Gulf, said the boat which mounted the attack was heard on shipping frequencies demanding the tanker's destination.

Told that the *Fundulea* was bound for Kuwait, the boat at first withdrew, reportedly telling the tanker it could proceed, but then launched its assault.

In another incident in the Strait, Iranian gunboats attacked and hit a Panamanian container vessel, the *Uni-Master*.

*Battleaxe* was accompanying two British merchant ships, the supertanker *British Norness* and the container vessel *Tor Bay*, out of the Gulf when the Iranians made their latest strike inside Omani waters.

Although Capt Blackburn did not identify the attackers' nationality, he said their boat was last seen heading north towards the Iranian coast.

### W. European Minesweepers To Begin Gulf Duties

#### 2 Dutch Vessels Assigned

*LD201204 Hilversum International Service in English 1130 GMT 20 Nov 87*

[Text] Two Royal Netherlands Navy minehunters will soon sail from the Gulf of Oman to pass through the Strait of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf. In Gulf waters the two vessels will carry out a new minehunting operation.

The Netherlands Navy ships are going in at the request of the British Royal Navy, which will protect them during the operation. This was a condition the Netherlands had insisted upon because the risks in the Persian Gulf are much greater than in the Gulf of Oman. The minehunters are not equipped to repel attacks.

#### Belgian Sweepers Enter Strait

*LD201746 Brussels Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 20 Nov 87*

[Text] Belgian sailors are now in the Persian Gulf under the protection of a British destroyer. The naval force steamed from the Gulf of Oman into the Strait of Hormuz last night, but it did not locate any mines. The Ministry of National Defense confirmed the news today. It specified that this new step had been taken following consultations with and in total agreement with the Dutch and UK Governments. It was not originally planned to have Belgian minesweepers enter the Strait of Hormuz.

## Saudi Arabia

### REUTER Report on Oil Price Increase Denied

*LD231750 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1520 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Nov (SPA)—A responsible source at the Saudi Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources has commented on statements attributed by *Reuter* to the under secretary of the Iranian Ministry of Petroleum. The comments by the Iranian minister were to the effect that an agreement is being formulated among OPEC member states to raise oil prices in December, and that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are considering raising their prices.

The source declared that the statements made by the Iranian official were untrue. He additionally stated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not agree to any price increase prior to the end of 1988, unless the oil market proves that such an increase is acceptable due to a real increase in demand.

## United Arab Emirates

### Iran's Velayati Condemns 'Grave' Kuwaiti Mistake

*LD231448 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Foreign Minister Velayati made a short stop in Abu Dhabi en route to Japan. While in Abu Dhabi, he met with Mr Rashid 'Abdallah 'Ali al-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs. This report states that at their meeting, the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs referred to recent developments in the Persian Gulf and the tension created by the presence of foreign military forces in the region. He said: We believe that the issues of the region should be solved by the Persian Gulf countries and that the superpower presence in the region should end as soon as possible.

Mr Velayati, while confirming his point of view, described the Kuwaiti action of drawing the superpowers into the Persian Gulf as a grave mistake that will only result in expanding the crisis in the region. Our foreign minister also stressed the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran on expanding relations with neighboring countries and on continuing talks with them on bilateral and regional issues.

## Yemen Arab Republic

### President on Arab Summit Results, Egypt Ties

*PM231131 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 14 Nov 87 p 4*

[Interview with President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by 'Abdallah al-Tayyari in Tabuk; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Tayyari] What is the state of fraternal relations between the Kingdom and Yemen?

[Salih] Relations between the Kingdom and Yemen are strong. Our meetings with our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and the reciprocal visits between officials of our two countries are a natural expression of the warm fraternal relations binding the two fraternal countries and peoples. These exchanges strengthen relations in all fields.

[Al-Tayyari] To what extent has the Amman summit fulfilled the hopes of the Arab nation concerning the dangers, particularly of the Iranian variety, that threaten it?

[Salih] The final statement from the close of the extraordinary Arab summit in fraternal Jordan has expressed positive results. It has also clearly pointed out that Iran's determination to continue the war against fraternal Iraq, its attacks against the State of Kuwait, and the continuing threats to the Gulf states are a serious challenge to the entire Arab nation.

Concluding the extraordinary summit with a united outlook toward this danger is bound to strengthen Arab and international efforts to end the war on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

[Al-Tayyari] The summit has given the Arab states the right to adopt a decision on restoring relations with Egypt, within the framework of the right of sovereignty. Does Yemen intend to take such a step, and if so, when?

[Salih] We believe that the final statement of the extraordinary summit was completely clear on the Arab states' resumption of ties with the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt. This would be based on the premise that diplomatic relations between any member of the Arab League and Egypt are a matter of sovereignty exercised by each state, according to its constitution and laws.

So, we in the YAR will make the right decision at the right time, in view of the deep-rooted relations that bind the fraternal Yemeni and Egyptian countries and peoples.

[Al-Tayyari] It has been said that the summit has achieved a number of Arab reconciliations. However, the final statement did not contain any practical steps for any such reconciliations, especially between Iraq and Syria, and between Jordan, the PLO, and Syria.

[Salih] Many Arab efforts were united while fraternal Arab heads of state and kings attended to contain the conflicts and eliminate them. This has in fact been achieved. Reconciliation has taken place and concord has replaced conflict. This transformed the whole summit into one of agreement, accord, and solidarity. Because of this, it was not necessary for the final statement to mention details: The desired goals for restoring Arab solidarity were attained.

## Syrian Chamber of Commerce Head Arrives

*JN231532 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1302 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (WAKH)—Badr al-Din al-Shallah, chairman of Syria's Chamber of Commerce Union, has asserted that his visit to Iraq marks the beginning of normalization between Syria and Iraq. He told a WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that he will be discussing trade relations with Iraqi businessmen.

Al-Shallah is the first Syrian personality to arrive in Baghdad since Iraqi and Syrian Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad met in Amman on the sidelines of the extraordinary Arab summit and agreed to sort out the problems between their countries. Observers view Al-Shallah's Baghdad visit and attendance at the 66th session of the Council of the Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture Union, which got under way here this morning, as signaling the start of a resumption of ties between Iraq and Syria. This cooperation between the two countries, historically known for their interdependence, adds Al-Shallah, should bring mutual agricultural, industrial, and social benefits.

He said that his visit to Iraq had received the blessing and support of the Syrian Government. He added: Syrian authorities struck Iraq from the list in my passport of countries Syrians are banned from visiting.

After he completes his visit to Iraq, Al-Shallah noted that he would proceed to Istanbul for an Arab-Turkish meeting to consider the establishment of a joint chamber. The WAKH correspondent, who was present at the opening of the Council Union's proceedings, reported that Al-Shallah and Iraq's industry minister, Hatim 'Abd al-Rashid, exchanged warm greetings and embraces.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Shafiq Sukkar, head of the Damascus Chamber of Industry, has voiced his pleasure at visiting Iraq and attending the Union's meetings. He called his visit and that of Al-Shallah to Iraq an auspicious start to trade and industrial contacts between Syria and Iraq and a return to fraternal relations. Sukkar said that he will leave for Damascus at the end of the meetings, but will be available for contacts during his stay in Baghdad.

Attending the 2-day meeting is a Libyan delegation comprising Al-Mabruk 'Ali al-Tuwayjiri, deputy head of his country's Chamber of Commerce Union, and Muhammad Ahmad ibn Zaytun, director general of the Libyan Chamber Union. Also attending for the first time since Egypt was reinstated into the Union's membership is a four-man Egyptian delegation.

## Joint Committee With Japan Begins Meetings

*JN232042 Baghdad INA in English 1832 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 23, INA—The joint Iraqi-Japanese committee for technical and economic cooperation today started here its 5th session. The two sides are discussing means of expanding prospects of technical and economic cooperation and transfer of advanced technology in the field of industry, agriculture and irrigation and increasing training grants. The committee previous session was held in Tokyo last year.

## Communique No 2,926 Details 22-23 Nov Combat

*JN231847 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Communique No 2,926 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continue their glorious defense of the homeland and the people's dignity, inflicting further losses on our country's enemies. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Our rapacious hawks inflicted important losses on the aggressors through 123 combat missions carried out today against enemy troop concentrations, weapon emplacements, and equipment. They then returned with their planes safely to base in God's care.

2. Our helicopter gunships inflicted new losses on enemy personnel, weapons, and equipment in 100 combat missions today. The knights then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector pounded enemy units opposite them, achieving the following: 25 enemy scoundrels killed; 13 vehicles of various types, one carrying personnel, set ablaze and destroyed; one SPG-9 gun, one heavy machinegun, and one tank destroyed; and one 107-mm launcher damaged.

4. Two enemy personnel were killed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector. Two infantry positions were destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector—Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, two infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed, one shovel [preceding word in English] was set ablaze and destroyed, and two ammunition dumps were blown up.

6. One infantry position was destroyed and its occupants were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. Two other positions and one observation post were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

7. In the VII Army Corps sector, one enemy soldier was killed, two infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed, one vehicle was set ablaze, and one shovel [preceding word in English] was damaged.

8. Eight enemy boats tried to approach Al-'Amiq Port last night. The port's courageous force confronted them and forced them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 November 1987

## Air Attacks Reduce Iranian Oil Exports

*JN231554 Baghdad INA in English 1440 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Paris, Nov 23, INA—Iraq, by intensifying air attacks on Iranian oil enterprises, refineries and pumping stations over the past 12 months, has managed to cut down Iranian oil exports by one million barrels a day. Oil experts, joining the Iranian opposition, said in statements published here today that Iraqi Air Force raids on oil tankers shuttling Iranian oil from Khark Island and other Iranian ports to the Strait of Hormuz contributed as well to reducing Iran's oil exports.

### Irangate May Harm U.S. Intelligence Ties

*TA231856 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Israel was slightly burned by the arms to Iran affair and will be more careful in the future, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in a meeting with foreign correspondents today. The deal might harm the cooperation between the intelligence organizations of both countries, but not military cooperation.

### 'Ivri Briefs Rabin on Results of Talks in U.S.

*TA241021 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 24 Nov 87 p 3*

[Report by Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] David 'Ivri, Defense Ministry director general, has reported to Minister Rabin that the U.S. State Department has confirmed all its promises to Israel made prior to the decision to close down the Lavi project. 'Ivri returned from the United States the day before yesterday with the official State Department document confirming this.

He reported to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that the Pentagon will use its influence with General Dynamics to obtain maximum employment for Israel Aircraft Industries within the framework of the supply of F-16c's to the Air Force. 'Ivri also reported that during the discussions, great progress was ,made on cooperation between the two countries in various projects developed in Israel, with the goal of studying the possibilities for production of products for purchase by the U.S. Army.

The director general told the defense minister that the talks had been conducted in a good atmosphere, and that he had noticed the Pentagon's readiness to examine various possibilities for reducing the cost of the next F-16c deal.

### Peres Visits France, Holds Talks With Leaders

For coverage of Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to France, including his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, see the France section of the 23 November West Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

### Shahal Visits Scandanavia on Government Mission

*TA231216 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 22 Nov 87*

[Text] Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Moshe Shahal today (Sunday), 22.11.87, begins a ten-day visit to Scandinavia on a government mission. He will be discussing matters related to his ministry.

During his visit, Shahal will participate in events marking Israel's 40th anniversary, being held this week in Finland, Norway and Denmark. He will also meet with the energy ministers of these countries and other government officials on topics related to his ministry.

Israel purchases close to one million tons of crude oil annually from Norway. Norwegian oil, which comes from the North Sea, is of excellent quality and is low in sulphur. Recently Israel signed an agreement with a Finnish company to supply a steam boiler to produce electricity for the new "Pama" facility which was established in the Negev to produce electricity from shale oil. The agreement signed with Finland is worth about $20 million.

### UNIFIL Accused of 'Terrorist' Infiltrations

*TA231224 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] The deputy commander of the South Lebanese Army today accused UNIFIL soldiers of allowing terrorists to cross into the security zone almost unimpeded. In a meeting with journalists, Sharbil Barakat said that he had lodged a protest with UN officials over the fact that an ever increasing number of terrorists have recently succeeded in infiltrating the security zone, kidnapping local inhabitants, and planting mines along the roads.

### Court Rejects Vanunu's Pretrial Claims

*TA221928 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] The Vanunu trial—Most of the defense's claims in the pretrial hearing were rejected by the Jerusalem district court this evening. Our legal affairs correspondent 'Oz Shelah reports:

The announcement the court permitted for publication pertains to two sessions: last Sunday's, after which no announcement was made; and today's, which was kept almost totally secret until 1 hour ago.

Justices No'am, Tal, and Brenner today accepted as evidence Vanunu's statements to Shin Bet investigators, thus rejecting the defense's claim that the statements had been made under duress and were inadmissible.

In last week's session the court decided not to allow the defense to submit any further evidence. The court also ruled that it had the authority to try Vanunu despite the defense's claims that he had been unlawfully detained, and it rejected the defense's request to open the trial to the public. No decision was made regarding the request of the defense to summon senior political figures as witnesses.

Vanunu was brought to court at noon and taken away a short time ago, this time with neither a helmet nor foreign press and news agencies crews.

## Gaza Member of Jihad Sentenced to 30 Years

*TA221121 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew*
*22 Nov 87 p 4*

[Report by Oren Kohen and Shim'on Elkabetz]

[Excerpt] The Gaza military court sentenced 'Abd al-Qadiral-Mashwakhi, a member of the Islamic Jihad organization, to 30 years imprisonment. Al-Mashwakhi (27), a Rafah resident, was convicted of membership in an illegal association, of providing services for that association, and of attempted murder. [passage omitted]

## Commentary Analyzes Implications of Shamir Trip

*TA201513 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew*
*20 Nov 87 p B2*

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "To Close Matters in the United States; To Open Matters in Israel"]

[Text] Early this week Prime Minister Shamir was busy preparing two speeches, which he will deliver while in the United States, and consolidating the issues to be raised in his talks with President Reagan and Secretary Shultz. One of Shamir's associates asked him: Is there still any point in traveling to the United States? Why not? asked Shamir.

The associate said he had read that 'Oded 'Eran, our charge d'affaires in Washington, sent a letter (headlined "An Administration in Fall"), in which he voices the assessment that there is simply nobody to talk to. The administration is in dire straits following the blows it has suffered one after the other: the Wall Street crash, the President's failure to appoint his Supreme Court nominees, etc. There is a general feeling that the administration is undergoing a process of disintegration.

Shamir replied that this is nonsense and that whoever issued this document acted with recklessness. What kind of an assessment is this? It is just a heap of gossip! The prime minister told his associate he could relax, because there is certainly someone with whom to talk. Bad as things look there, I wish we had things the same way here.

The prime minister's trip is the result of an invitation by heads of the Jewish Federations to attend their annual conference in Miami, but as usual, it has turned into a political trip.

Shamir believes that the question is not with whom, but rather about what, to talk. This "what" is dependent on the fact that in approximately 1 year the Reagan administration is to end its tenure. This week Foreign Minister Peres defined the present administration in the following words: I do not know what administration there will be in the United States (following the elections), but I doubt whether there will be another administration as friendly toward Israel.

Shamir believes there should be a dialogue with the U.S. Administration at this point in order to "close matters." Peres also thinks so, only he does not think about the same matters. Were things in Peres' hands, he would have strived to sign a memorandum of understanding with the United States clarifying the U.S. position with regard to the nature of the international conference and ensuring future economic, military, and security aid.

Shamir is striving to ensure just this (aid as part of the strategic cooperation between the two countries). Shamir, however, also wants to eliminate the idea of an international conference.

On the face of it, Shamir could have settled for the understanding already achieved between himself and Shultz regarding this issue. When Shultz visited Israel several weeks ago, he proposed an original idea which was meant to be an answer to Shamir's firm opposition to the international conference.

Jordanian Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awda this week confirmed (in a symposium on the Israeli-Arab conflict held in Atlanta under the auspices of former President Carter) that Husayn has rejected Shultz' proposal: The possibility that during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit slated for 7 December the leaders of Syria, Israel, and Jordan will be invited to Washington and that the summit will serve as the auspices for the opening of the peace negotiations.

This portrayal of the "Shultz plan" does not coincide with the details of the move as understood by Shamir, who agreed to it in principle on the basis of the postulate that it will include direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan (Shamir took objection to the invitation of Syria to this "wedding").

According to what Shamir was told, the two superpowers will only call upon the sides to open peace negotiations and this will in fact be the end of their part. This is why Shamir, following Shultz' departure, emphasized that the "conference is dead," and that we are talking about "direct negotiations."

Husayn's argument was that "a meeting between sides to a conflict, even if under the auspices of Reagan and Gorbachev, cannot serve as a desirable framework for the Arabs. All the Arabs are demanding negotiations under the auspices of an international conference." Observers believe that the statement made by Abu 'Awda, which was undoubtedly made on the king's initiative, was meant to prove to "all the Arabs" that the king—as the host of the Arab summit—is faithful to the pan-Arab interests.

It is very possible, however, that following the Amman conference, from which he came out stronger, Husayn will make another effort to revive the move. If it transpires that the Soviets are not rejecting the U.S. proposal, it is conceivable that Husayn will agree, on the condition that the Soviets solve his difficulties. In other

words, that they encourage Jordan to come to the Washington summit even without Syria and the PLO, and that they call for peace negotiations.

The fact that this week Peres used the Knesset podium to reiterate the need for furthering the prospects of the international conference—in the form agreed on by himself and Husayn in their London meeting last April—perhaps serves as a hint that he has information that there is no chance to implement Shultz' proposal.

It only stands to reason that Shamir is also in possession of this information. This is why he wants to reaffirm the points of understanding which he reached in private meetings with Shultz.

In one of the messages sent by Shultz to Shamir, following his meeting with Husayn in London, he reported the king's negative reaction. At the same time, he praised Shamir for showing "good statesmanship." Some people say that Shultz even noted that he will not forget this.

Shamir wholeheartedly believed in the agreement he gave to Shultz to include the Soviet Union in the international auspices for opening negotiations with Jordan. He was also encouraged by most of his colleagues, with whom he consulted before he answered Shultz' proposal in the affirmative.

Finance Minister Nisim told him at that time: "Had we wanted to pray that all our wishes regarding the peace issue be fulfilled, and then turned to the computer to help us phrase our prayer, we could not have expected to receive a better formula than the one brought by Shultz.

"What have we to be afraid of? We are accepting the proposal which is meant, according to Shultz, to enable direct negotiations. If Jordan and/or the Soviet Union reject it, what have we lost? And if they do accept it then we should be satisfied.

"Suppose—continued Nisim—Husayn would have called you and said: Let's meet to discuss the peace negotiations. Could you have refused? I believe that what Shultz is proposing is indeed direct negotiations."

Later, Shamir told his colleagues that when he concluded this issue with Shultz it was clear to him that direct negotiations were intended.

If things are so clear, what does the prime minister still have to talk about with Reagan and Shultz?

It is possible that Shamir is striving to reach an understanding with the U.S. Administration regarding the peace process in order to make clear to everybody, especially in Israel, that the United States supports his position. If there was any meat in the compliment given by Shultz and it was not said only out of politeness, then it is important that this thing be expressed in a concrete way. This is important for the issue of peace and for the upcoming Israeli elections.

There is no doubt at all that this issue—the effort to further the peace process along with the question of demographics, which the peace agreement must solve—will be at the center of the next Knesset elections. Peres succeeded in raising this issue to the forefront of the national agenda.

It is easy to imagine what a great impact U.S. support for the international conference would have on the Alignment's chances to gain support in the next elections. The case will be different, however, if Shamir can point to an understanding with the United States regarding the rejection of the conference idea.

This is the idea behind Shamir's efforts to reach such an understanding with the United States, and at the same time convince the administration that contrary to Reagan's statement, time is not acting against Israel.

This mission will be at the heart of the prime minister's talks in Washington. Shamir's thesis, resulting from consultations held in Jerusalem on the eve of his departure, maintains that the last year (apparently referring to the duration of Shamir's tenure as prime minister) has proven that time is not working against Israel.

Shamir believes that the the Amman summit is proof of this: Syria's power has eroded; the PLO has reached a low ebb; Egypt, which has made peace with Israel, is becoming more influential; and Jordan, which has always been considered inferior, is becoming stronger in its confrontation with the PLO.

Why then is time playing against us? If the Arabs realize that they have no alternative but direct negotiations and nobody encourages them on the issue of the international conference, peace will draw nearer.

In the aforementioned consultations in Jerusalem, Shamir said: "I have no doubt that had (Peres) avoided preaching the cause of such a conference, and had the government united against it, then in the new atmosphere which we feel in the region we would have reached genuine negotiations with Jordan."

Shamir will try to convince his U.S. interlocutors that the firmness shown by the United States in the mission of safeguarding the freedom of international navigation has strengthened its position in the Arab world. Shamir is convinced—and this is what he will say to Reagan and Shultz—that the results of the Amman conference to a large extent stemmed from the fact that the United States has proven in deeds, and not merely words, which party really protects the Arab states, in the final event.

Shamir believes that this development, wherein most of the Arab states are courting Egypt—which is supported by the United States and has peaceful relations with Israel—should be used for furthering a direct peace process of the kind which has taken place between Egypt and Israel.

Shamir has taken into consideration the possibility that during his visit he will be asked questions regarding the "demographic" issue. On this issue as well he will not give up his beliefs: "When we established the state in 1948 we were a minority here, after losing 6 million Jews, and we had no idea how many people would immigrate. Did we know that 800,000 Jews would immigrate from the Arab countries? Did we know that Jews would come from the Soviet Union?

"Zionism came to fight fatalism. We must do everything possible to bring about aliya, but we cannot afford to despair as a result of statistical data which may also change in our favor."

Shamir has taken this double message to the United States—for the Reagan administration on the one hand and U.S. Jewry on the other.

There is a growing impression that during the next year there will be no developments in the political arena, neither direct negotiations nor an international conference. Up-to-date information which has arrived in Jerusalem this week has it that both Husayn and the Soviet Union have accepted the assessment that there is no chance for movement before 1988.

The political aspect of the prime minister's trip to the United States must be seen, therefore, in the following light: "Closing matters" in the United States on the eve of the elections there, as a prelude to "opening matters" here on the eve of the Israeli elections.

## Reportage on Visit by Ukranian Official

### Meets With Al-Rifa'i

*JN231545 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic*
*1200 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office at the Prime Ministry today the Soviet friendship delegation led by Pavel Volkov, Ukranian SSR minister of motor transportation and member of the UkSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed developments in the region, as well as relations between Jordan and the USSR and ways to reinforce and develop them. The Soviet ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

### Received by King Husayn

*JN231859 Amman Television Service in Arabic*
*1800 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon the Soviet friendship delegation led by Pavel Volkov, UkSSR minister of motor transportation and member of the UkSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. During the meeting, his majesty said that he is looking forward to the day when he will meet with Soviet leader Gorbachev to discuss the region's issues as well as issues of mutual interest.

His majesty stressed to the Soviet friendship delegation Jordan's position on achieving a just peace in the Middle East. He affirmed that the only way to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region is to convene an international peace conference to be attended by all parties to the dispute, including the five permanent Security Council members. His Majesty also stressed the need to implement Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the war between Iraq and Iran.

Volkov conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn the Soviet leadership's full support and its appreciation for his majesty's efforts to build a unified Arab position. He also expressed the Soviet leadership's support for the need to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem, to stop aggression against the Arab nation, and to end the Iraq-Iran war.

The head of the Soviet delegation affirmed that views were identical with regard to efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war not just because it is threatening the region's countries, but also because it is threatening world peace. Volkov thanked King Husayn for patronizing the Jordanian-Soviet friendship week. The meeting was attended by Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

### Leaves Amman 24 Nov

*JN241248 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic*
*1200 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] Pavel Volkov, UkSSR minister of transportation, member of the UkSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and head of the Soviet friendship delegation, has praised relations between Jordan and the USSR. He noted that these relations develop and grow daily thanks to the concern of the two countries' leaderships to develop them and the convergence of their viewpoints vis-a-vis world issues. At a press conference this morning, Volkov said that His Majesty King Husayn's scheduled visit to the USSR—the visit which will take place before the end of this year—will develop and strengthen these relations and reinforce coordination between the two countries within the framework of their joint efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The head of the Soviet friendship delegation added that the USSR greatly appreciates His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to convene an international conference to achieve peace in the Middle East—a conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict in the region and the five permanent members of the Security Council. Such a conference is an ideal formula for ending conflict and tension in the region, he stated. Volkov affirmed that the USSR will exert intensive efforts to convene the conference.

Volkov asserted that the ongoing talks between his country's government and Iranian officials are no more than discussions of some articles of the treaty signed between the two countries in 1921. These talks have nothing to do with the USSR'S firm stand on the Iraq-Iran war, he added. He said that the USSR's firm stand calls for ending this war without encroaching on the rights of all Gulf peoples.

Volkov also affirmed that the USSR, which has always believed in the justice of the Arab causes, will never relinquish its support for the Arab nation's struggle to regain its occupied territory and its peoples' right to live in peace and tranquillity.

Volkov and his accompanying delegation left Amman at noon today after a visit of several days. During the visit, Volkov met with His Majesty King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and a number of senior officials. He also participated in the celebrations of the Jordanian-Soviet friendship days, which were held in Amman and in a number of Jordanian cities, and visited several tourist and historical sites.

## Al-Masri Remarks on Summit, PLO Hailed

*JN241019 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic*
*24 Nov 87 pp 1, 20*

[Editorial: "The Move Begins"]

[Text] It is only natural that the Arab masses should welcome with confidence and satisfaction the visits which His Majesty King Husayn will pay to Baghdad and

Damascus this week and which Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri revealed yesterday. No doubt the process of normalizing relations between the two fraternal countries—a process which the king's moves will enhance—is one of the most important results of the Amman summit of reconciliation and accord. Speeding up this process is very essential, indicating that Amman, Baghdad, and Damascus appreciate the time factor in implementing the summit resolutions, particularly the normalization of Syrian-Iraqi relations.

It is clearer now more than ever before that the Arabs are determined to take measures to reduce the flames of the Iraq-Iran war and to punish those responsible for its continuation in light of the Amman summit resolution which Foreign Minister al-Masri has revealed—a resolution which stipulates that the Arab countries will reconsider their trade and economic relations with states that supply arms to Iran.

Indubitably, such a positive, courageous resolution will not take long to implement and will be one of the most important factors strengthening Arab credibility and entrenching the conviction of the international community that the Arabs can implement what they decide.

Moreover, the foreign minister reiterated Jordan's pan-Arab commitment toward the Palestinian cause. This is a firm and unchanging commitment and is represented in three principles. The first is adherence to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The second is that the United Nations should extend an invitation to the PLO to participate in an international conference to realize peace in the Middle East. The third principle is that no Arab state can represent the Palestinian people instead of the PLO and that no Arab state can settle the Palestinian issue.

Obviously, the commitment to these principles will abort any suspect maneuvers by Israel or other forces conniving with it to raise doubts and fabricate obstacles with regard to the PLO role in the peace process.

Furthermore, what gives satisfaction is the ministers' assertion that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue is "necessary;" that Jordan and the PLO are in agreement on continuing dialogue to reach a point of agreement; and that Jordan believes that such a point is inherent in the principles stipulated in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

Thus, the apparent developments give the impression that the effects of the breakthrough realized at the Amman summit are now being felt and that the confidence in the new Arab dawn is being enhanced day after day.

## Al-Jumayyil Gives Independence Day Speech

*NC221145 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Speech by President Amin al-Jumayyil at the Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzion to mark the 44th anniversary of Lebanon's independence on 22 November—recorded]

[Text] O soldiers, O Lebanese. I address you today while sharing this celebration with Lebanon's soldiers. I stress the organizational relationship between our country's independence and the Army. The Army is the symbol of independence, because without it there can be no independence. Although our Army did not achieve contemporary Lebanon's independence in a liberation war, this independence was, however, the outcome of a long historical struggle.

Lebanon's Army through the generations has offered generous blood in this struggle and recorded heroic events by virtue of the lasting cohesion between the Army and the people. I am hopeful that we will again record bright chapters in our history and that we will honor the unknown soldier on whose tomb we laid a wreath today. This soldier is a living link between the martyers who had fallen in the past, so that we may deserve Lebanon and so that Lebanon may deserve independence. Those who are being martyred every day in the course of the ongoing war believe that the homeland will survive as long as there are people who martyr for Lebanon and fight on his behalf.

O Lebanese, we would not have been given our independence in the 1940's had it not been for the joint rebellious stand and the unity of the true will to live together. It has been through sincere efforts that we created a homeland for us as a free and civilized example which has been the center of attraction and desire of all. Perhaps the weakness afflicting our independence is the transitory negligence of the characteristics, ideals, and values of our homeland. I have no doubt that these characteristics are still present and well-established within the depths of the peoples' and homeland's conscience.

O Lebanese, if, during my term in office, this is my last message to you on the occasion of Independence Day, certainly this is not the last time that I will address you on the question of independence as this is our continuous and daily mission. It is the continuous struggle of a people who reject oppression and humiliation.

On this historic occasion, I reiterate the national principles and stands which I have declared and adhered to in practice on more than one occasion. Although I maintain every stand and keep every promise until it should be met, there are unequivocal constants and events which do not lack explanation.

It is obvious that the events sweeping Lebanon are not linked to internal disputes or to transient political trends. Rather, they affect the substance and basic components; namely, the substance of entity, fate, and independence.

Therefore, the struggle is not among factions, wings, and organizations, but between existence and nonexistence; between the entire homeland and disintegrated states; between the absolute entity and the divided entity; and between the wager on a unified option bringing all the Lebanese together and the wager on groups with multiple identities.

Had it triumphed over the unified option, the partitionist experiment would have scored success amid the most vicious practices. Had this people capitulated and submitted to the will of division and fait accompli, the war would have ended and with it the Lebanon on which we wager.

You continue to stand fast despite the various pressures that you have been subjected to and which aim at making you surrender. You continue to stand fast because your determination to live is stronger than the will to die. The war of division, the war against legitimacy, the war of guns, the war of crossing points, the war of explosions and booby-trapped blasts, and the war of bread, are all methods seemingly varied but with one target. Your wagering on freedom is dearer than life for you. Many were martyred for this purpose. The loaf will not be dearer than blood. However, the dearest price is not your life, but the free dignified life.

O Lebanese, we know, but our souls never knew despair. We know that we are living a three-sided tragedy that no other people in history had known before. It is a dreadful national tragedy which would have made the greatest and strongest homelands fall into the abyss of extinction. It is a difficult economic tragedy which would have made the biggest and richest country fall into the abyss of poverty. It is a tragedy of enormous proportions, which would have made any people capitulate, submit to humiliation, and seek refuge in various spots around the world.

O Lebanese, in your confrontation of this three-sided tragedy, your utmost steadfastness and determination to live destines you to achieve a three-sided objective in a most splendid victory. It is the objective of the freedom of souls from the vestiges of war; the freedom of the homeland from the shackles of occupation; and the freedom of the citizen from the ghost of starvation.

We will stand fast against the war of the loaf as we did against the war of the guns. We will never retreat. Together we will wage the three-sided liberation war because it is the road to freedom. We will never retreat from this. Only a little is left in front of us after the difficult patience. I pin great hope on you and on great Lebanon. Long live Lebanon. [applause]

### Al-Asad Sends Greetings

*NC212225 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a message of congratulations to President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil on the 44th anniversary of Lebanon's independence. In his message, Al-Asad expressed his best wishes for the fraternal Lebanese people and President al-Jumayyil.

### Al-Jumayyil Leaves for FRG Visit 23 Nov

*NC231030 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] The office of the director general of the Presidency has issued the following statement:

President of the Republic Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil left Beirut for Bonn today for a working visit in response to an official invitation from FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The president will also visit Berlin and Munich and will meet with senor officials there.

### Al-Huss Returns From Amman Economic Meetings

*NC240841 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss returned to Beirut from Amman today, having participated in the Arab Economic Experts meetings there. Dr al-Huss held talks with King Husayn and senior officials who affirmed their support for the efforts being made to bring about reconciliation in Lebanon.

### Leaders Planning Political Meeting in Paris

*NC231040 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] The Jordanian newspaper *Al-Ra'y* reports that preparations are under way for a Lebanese political-military-spiritual meeting in Paris. The meeting is aimed at formulating arrangements or a working program to see that the remainder of the current term of Presidency passes with maximum calm. Quoting what it described as a source associated with the Lebanese crisis, the paper says these preparations are designed to allow for presidential elections next year, with prior agreement on who will be the next president of the Republic. The paper notes that recent visits to and meetings in Paris by Lebanese political, military, and spiritual leaders were within this context.

### Sha'ban, Fadlallah Condemn Amman Summit

*LD211441 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 21, IRNA—Head of Lebanese Towhid Movement Sheikh Sa'id Sha'ban condemned the recently concluded Amman Arab summit and termed it the most dangerous gathering of Arab rulers against the Palestinian cause.

Speaking in a sermon on Friday congregational prayers in Tripoli, Lebanon, Sheikh Sha'ban said that at the Amman summit pro-U.S. Arabs impudently referred to Iran as a threat while describing the Zionist regime as being peace-seeking.

Meanwhile, Friday prayers leader of Imam Reza (AS) Mosque in southern Beirut Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said the Amman summit is a novel treason by compromising Arab rulers against Arab nations.

He stressed that it was the U.S. desire to return Egypt to the Arab fold and encourage them to make peace with the Zionist regime.

Shaykh Fadlallah renewed solidarity of Lebanese Muslims with Iranian people and said that Muslims in Lebanon are firmly determined to stand to military and economic plots of international arrogance.

### Dany Sham'un, Junblatt Meet in Al-Mukhtarah

*NC222043 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party, and Albert Mukhaybir, deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, visited Dayr al-Qamar today where they laid a wreath on the tomb of departed President Camille Sham'un, one of the independence leaders. The two then visited Al-Mukhtarah where they met with Minister Walid Junblatt.

In a statement to reporters, Sham'un expressed hope that the visit will produce good results in the country's interest. Regarding the occasion for the visit, Sham'un said: This is a day for laying wreaths on the tombs of departed President Sham'un and independence leaders.

Sham'un was asked: Is your meeting with Minister Walid Junblatt today similar to the Dayr al-Qamar meeting between the late President Camille Sham'un and Kamal Junblatt in 1952? He answered: It is not dissimilar.

Sham'un was then asked: Are you a candidate for the office of president of the republic? Sham'un answered: This is an old question, and the answer is yes.

Referring to the general conditions, Sham'un said: We are not satisfied. He pointed out that nothing concrete is being done about the economic situation. He said that more serious action should be initiated to end Lebanon's impasse.

Concerning the formation of a new government, Sham'un said: The formation of a new government would solve many problems and it is the way to solve several problems.

The leader of the National Liberal Party and deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies had lunch in Al-Mukhtarah. Sham'un then held a 30-minute private meeting with Minister Junblatt.

Following it, Junblatt said: This was an occasion for exchanging views on conditions in general. We all wish to put an end to this political and economic crisis which this regime has brought upon us along with other tragedies. We hope that we will not have to wait for about 10 months to end the present stagnation. A specific political move should be taken before the new president is elected. We will continue our contacts with all sincere and national key figures in order to ease the burdens and tragedies of the Lebanese people.

Regarding the withdrawal of 'Asim Qansuh, secretary general of the Ba'th Party's Organization, from the Liberation and Unification Front, Junblatt said: I do not believe that Comrade Qansuh's withdrawal is final. This assumption is based on the result of some of the issues which were previously discussed with him in Damascus. I believe that matters have returned to normal. Junblatt pointed out that the withdrawal was discussed in Damascus yesterday. He said: The Front continues and it must continue to exist until further notice in order to unite Lebanon and confront the dangers.

### Al-Huss Remarks on Government Status, Decrees

*NC211307 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Excerpt] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has stated that the president of the Republic does not need to have a written resignation from the government to form a new one. Al-Huss added that it was the president who decreed his appointment as the acting prime minister and restricted the task of the government with the discharge of work until a new government has been formed.

Al-Huss questions the meaning of the decrees signed by the president if the latter had no knowledge of the government's resignation. He affirmed that the government has actually resigned with the resignation of its late Prime Minister Rashid Karami. He added that the government has completely collapsed with the death of its leader. [passage omitted]

### Further Details on Yacht Captured by Fatah

*NC240947 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 23 Nov 87 p 6*

[Text] Further details have come to light regarding the Israeli yacht which had been captured by the Fatah Revolutionary Council. It was equipped with a 30-mile range radio transmitter and had a group of dual-nationality Zionist Jews aboard. The yacht was captured in an encounter with a group of fedayeen bound for the Gaza Strip to provide logistic services to fedayeen in the occupied territories.

Israel, France, and Belgium hastened to restrict media coverage of the incident establishing, in the meantime, a joint operation room in Brussels to study the situation. This action was prompted by the fact that there were indications that the yacht was captured within Palestinian territorial waters.

### Syrian-Backed Palestinian Gunmen in Sidon

*NC231724 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] According to security reports, efforts are continuing to strengthen the Salvation Front forces, which are backed by Syria, against the pro-'Arafat groups. These reports indicate that approximately 120 Palestinian gunmen arrived at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp last week from Syria via the Al-Shuf mountain. These gunmen were trained at the Al-Yarmuk camp in Syria and have been deployed among the Salvation Front's positions in the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp, Lib'a, and Kafr Jarrah.

### Syrian Forces Conduct 'Storming Operations'

*NC241141 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] According to security reports, Syrian Forces are carrying out storming operations in the Al-Bastah area of West Beirut, having uncovered secret groups responsible for planting and detonating explosive devices at night.

### Birri Views Improved Ties With Palestinians

*PM231603 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 20 Nov 87 pp 14-15*

[Interview with Nabih Birri, Amal Movement leader, by Zaki Shihab in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] *Al-Hawadith:* What is the story of your meeting with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah in Algeria?

Birri: It is known that we, Arab and African parties, liberation movements, and organizations had the honor of responding to generous Algerian invitations to participate in ceremonies marking the anniversary of the Algerian revolution. [passage omitted].

Of course, Brother Nayif Hawatimah used this occasion and came up to me and shook my hand. He said: Let us sit down and discuss things. I welcomed the idea. We held two long meetings at my residence in "Djenan El-Methak."

*Al-Hawadith:* What issues were raised?

Birri: Of course, the problem of the camps and its background. I said to Abu al-Nuf [Nayif Hawatimah]: If you are not happy with my initiative you are welcome to present another one to solve the problem. But he said:

We adhere to it to the letter. All that is required is to organize its implementation in a better way than before. Instead of taking weeks, it should be implemented in one, or within 2 days.

*Al-Hawadith:* And what obstructed the implementation of the agreement before?

Birri: Formalities; namely, the question of which issue should be dealt with first as well as the question of where the fighters based east of Sidon were to go, and so on.

*Al-Hawadith:* How was the problem of the fighters resolved?

Birri: It was agreed to resolve this question with Walid Junblatt and other party leaders.

*Al-Hawadith:* What about the joint operations room referred to by Nayif Hawatimah?

Birri: For years I have been calling on every fighter wishing to fight against Israel to participate in and coordinate under such an operations room. I recall that I even promised to provide arms. Undoubtedly matters require both coordination and cooperation with brothers in Palestinian organizations as well as in Lebanese organizations and parties. I would refer here to the fact that a number of organization leaders know that we have contributed on more than one occasion when they sought help to reach the borders with Israel. Parties that asked for such help were also responded to. Our participation is known in securing access for heroes engaged in martyrdom operations to reach the enemy's positions. This is because fighting Israel is the concern of all patriots and it should be so. It is not in the interests of Palestine or Lebanon that a state of chaos to prevail. The liberation of the South did cost a great deal of pure blood. Therefore, we should preserve it and work for the comfort of its sons.

*Al-Hawadith:* What about your meeting with Abu Jihad [Fatah Central Committee member Khalil al-Wazir] and other Fatah leaders?

Birri: It did not take place at all. [passage omitted]

*Al-Hawadith:* Has this painful page between the two parties been turned?

Birri: We hope so. Proof of this is that the moment the initiative was launched at the famous Ba'labakk Festival, it was welcomed by various Lebanese and Palestinian organizations. Obstacles preventing its implementation are in fact minor things. [passage omitted]

*Al-Hawadith:* Is the relaxation in relations [between the Amal Movement and the Palestinians] attributable to contacts between Syria and the PLO?

Birri: Everyone knows that I launched my initiative a month ago. This inter-fighting was a trap aimed at the movement into which I was driven. Our concern is to liberate our beloved south. Any battle launched in a direction other than this would serve neither the Amal Movement nor the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

*Al-Hawadith:* Why did you not go to the Amman summit?

Birri: That was not in the cards. We were invited with the proviso that we were part of the official delegation. This was out of the question.

*Al-Hawadith:* Why did you give your viewpoint to the U.S. ambassador to convey to President al-Jumayyil in Amman during the summit?

Birri: We did not give it to the U.S. ambassador, and I have no knowledge of it. Before we left Lebanon we assigned Brothers Muhammad Baydun and Marwan Hamadah to draft a working paper representing our view of the situation in Lebanon. The ambassador might have conveyed what we told Murphy during his visit to Beirut, which was obviously included in the paper that contained our viewpoint. But we did not give the ambassador anything to convey. [passage omitted]

## Afghanistan

### Najibullah's Brother 'Defects' to Mujahidin

*BK241128 Hong Kong AFP in English 1111 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 24 (AFP)—An Afghan Army general has reportedly committed suicide and the younger brother of Afghan President Najibullah has sought refuge with Muslem guerrillas, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

Lieutenant-General Muhammed Nabi Azimi, also first deputy minister of defence, allegedly killed himself after an offensive he led to break a siege by Afghan rebels of the eastern Khowst garrison town failed last week, they said.

Some 300 of his troops joined the rebels, another 300 were captured and the rest killed during the encounter in the area bordering northwest Pakistan, the diplomats said. They said the Afghan forces had been outnumbered by the rebels.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the report.

Several sources, including the mujahidin, have reported a large military operation around Khowst. Diplomats said the Soviets recently diverted unusually large armoured columns to Gardez and Khowst in an apparent bid to ease rebel pressure.

Quoting unconfirmed reports, the diplomats also said Mr. Najibullah's younger brother Siddiqullah and former President Babrak Karmal's half brother Mahmud Barialay had defected to the mujahidin.

Mr. Barialay was removed from the Politburo last month after the ruling Communist Party purged scores of Karmal supporters. He has not been seen in public since.

The diplomats said Mr. Siddiqullah was "not a pro-communist" and that his alleged defection may not be politically significant, only "embarrassing" for the Afghan leader who has launched a policy of national reconciliation to end the insurgency in his country.

The president and his brother had allegedly been at odds, according to Pakistani press reports quoting Western media.

The diplomats said Mr. Siddiqullah defected a week ago to the forces of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the mujahidin's field commander who has repeatedly fought Soviet and Kabul troops in the past eight years in the strategic northern Panjsher Valley.

### Mujahidin Capture Soviet Base in Badakhsan

*PM231423 Jeddah SAUDI GAZETTE in English 18 Nov 87 p 1*

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Jifri report: "Sixteen Hundred Soviets, Afghans Captured as Base Falls"]

[Excerpt] Jeddah, Tuesday [17 Nov]—Six hundred Soviet invaders and more than 1,000 government soldiers, including the brother of Afghan leader Najibullah, were captured by the mujahidin early this week in Badakhsan, a northern Afghan province bordering the Soviet Union.

The report, received by telephone from Peshawar, said that Tappeh-ye Khana, the most significant Russian base in northern Afghanistan, had fallen to the mujahidin, by commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. Tappeh-ye Khana is "the dream of the mujahidin," said Dr Abdallah 'Azzam, who is here in Jeddah participating in the *'Ukaz* and *Saudi Gazette* exhibition on Afghanistan.

Before Tappeh-ye Khana fell to the mujahidin, they had to climb seven steep and snowy mountains in Nurestan, a 2-week journey to traverse the area, but now it was a 2-day short cut in open country, Dr 'Azzam said.

The mujahidin told Armand Hammer, the American tycoon who contacted them on behalf of the Soviet Union, that Soviet troops entered Afghanistan in 24 hours in December 1979 and "we would give them 48 hours to withdraw," Dr 'Azzam informed an audience of over 600 people at 'Ukaz Organisation for Press and Publication this evening.

The mujahidin told Hammer that they were ready to give 24 hours grace period more than the 24 hours in which they made their entry into Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

### Najibullah Addresses Constitution Commission

*LD231633 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Kabul, 23 Nov (*Bakhtar*)—This morning Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, chaired a session of the DRA Draft Constitution Commission at the Gol Khanah Palace, the headquarters of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The session was also attended by Comrade Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, by members of the Politburo and the Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee, by members of the Presidium, the Revolutionary Council, and the Council of Ministers, and by social and cultural personalities of the country.

At the beginning of the session Comrade Najibullah spoke about the draft constitution. He said: The working group has presented the draft constitution to the Draft Constitution Commission for approval. As you will remember, in the last session there were a number of proposals and criticisms. These have been taken into consolidation in this last draft. As a result it has taken the [word indistinct] of our constitution and we can now rely on it completely.

Comrade Najibullah mentioned that the process of asking the people's views on the draft constitution allows us to say that this draft has been prepared well and that the several months of effort by the commission has ended successfully. The members of the working group, headed by 'Abdorrahim Hatif, have completed an extraordinary and important work for the Afghan people. I think the homeland will want to thank all those who took an active part in drafting the country's constitution.

Comrade Najibullah added that we now consider the work concluded in this regard and that the instructions of the DRA Revolutionary Council and of its Presidium has been carried out completely.

According to a BIA report, during this session discussions and talks were held in a free and completely democratic atmosphere on the draft constitution and the changes which have been brought into it. A large number of participants in the session expressed their views in this connection.

At the end of the meeting, the Draft Constitution Commission, assessing the draft presented by the working group, approved the following issues:

1. The draft constitution, containing 13 chapters and 147 articles, is approved.

2. The draft constitution should be presented for assessment and approval to the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium.

3. The work of the Draft Constitution Commission and of its working group is considered fully completed.

## BAKHTAR Defends Human Rights Record

*LD221601 Kabul BAKHTAR in English*
*0439 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] Kabul, November 21, *Bakhtar*—A political observer of *Bakhtar* writes:

These days, instructors of ideologic destruction and psychological war of imperialism against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) and prior to all the Washington administration futilely attempt to portray the unrealistic situation of the human rights in Afghanistan, prepared by the CIA, to the world people.

The hue and cry about the violation of human rights in Afghanistan which is raised as always from Washington, is a part of the imperialist propaganda campaign aimed at hampering the policy of national reconciliation in the DRA.

Publication of a report at the behest of the CIA in this connection is a part of the trickery and lying attempts launched in Washington about the violation of human rights in Afghanistan.

It is in reality the imperialist and reactionary forces of the region and the Afghan extremist bands, the Washington administration at the head, who by the continuation of the undeclared war of imperialism against the DRA violate the most primitive human and civil rights in Afghanistan.

Equality of rights between men and women, all citizens of the DRA irrespective of their political, religious, racial, language, ethnic, and tribal relationships are practically observed in the DRA.

The revolutionary state announced general amnesty for prisoners. It also approved a new law on military service which provided for lots of facilities to the soldiers. It also approved the law on political parties. The policy of national reconciliation is the best demonstration of democracy and ensurer of human rights in Afghanistan.

The draft constitution of the DRA in which all the legal, social, cultural, moral, and human rights of the citizens of the DRA have been contained and which will be shortly approved at the Grand Assembly of Afghanistan is an evident testimony of the protection of human rights in the DRA. This will serve as a convincing reply to the enemies of Afghanistan.

Now, the imperialist forces which shed crocodile tears for human rights in Afghanistan should be asked that to what extent they have observed the human rights in this country.

The counter-revolutionary extremists who are being armed by the imperialist countries of the United States and Britain organise explosions in the city buses, restaurants, and other crowded areas of the country. The people of Afghanistan have not forgotten the American chemical weapons which were captured by the Armed Forces from the counter-revolutionaries in Herat, Ghazni and Nangarhar provinces as well as in Khowst grand district.

Right now, Washington administration and its NATO allies have put the most modern destructive weapons at the disposal of Afghan extremists. Stinger rockets, American and British Blowpipes have collectively killed hundreds of passengers including the children and women.

Felix Amarcora, a UN special reporter on human rights in Afghanistan, who has recently visited the DRA, admitted that the situation on human rights in the DRA has improved and the policy of national reconciliation is a solemn policy.

Washington administration by publishing lies, fabrications and malicious reports in no way can conceal its armed interventions against the people of Afghanistan.

## Wakil Discusses UN Afghan Debate, GDR Trip

*LD202340 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Nov 87*

[Text] As our dear compatriots are aware, Comrade 'Abdul Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA foreign minister, arrived home yesterday afternoon. He had participated in the UN General Assembly session on the so-called Afghanistan issue, which was held on 9 and 10 November. He had also paid an official friendly visit to the GDR from 12 to 15 November at the invitation of Oskar Fischer, GDR foreign minister. We have invited Comrade 'Abdul Wakil to give us some information about his participation in the UN General Assembly session and on his official friendly visit to the GDR, to which we now draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified announcer, speaking in Dari] Well, my first question: Please give some information to the dear DRA television audience and to the listeners of Radio Afghanistan about the UN General Assembly session on the so-called Afghanistan issue and about the activities of the DRA delegation in these discussions.

[Wakil, speaking in Dari] As our compatriots are aware, the UN General Assembly discussed the so-called Afghanistan issue on 9 and 10 November. The discussion of this issue has not achieved a single result in terms of resolving the problems of the last 8 years. It has been used only for propaganda purposes by a number of hostile countries, including the United States and Pakistan.

The DRA delegation understood the fact that the continuation of such a fruitless discussion was not in the interests of peace and security and was contrary to the prestige of the UN General Assembly. Since the commencement of the 42d session of the UN General Assembly, the delegation has expressed its readiness for the withdrawal of the organization from the hostile discussion and for the achievement of a draft that would contribute to the cause of peace.

In order to avoid such a situation, an amended draft resolution containing two topics was proposed by the Arab Republic of Syria and Democratic Yemen. One topic was a request for the serious observation of the principles of noninterference in Afghanistan. The other was to welcome the headway achieved in the Geneva talks. However, these two adjustments to the previous resolutions would have prepared the ground for the existing resolution to be a balanced one, to contain practical aspects, to be acceptable to all the concerned parties, to be useful in the matter of peace and security in our region, and to be able to be unanimously approved. This was the aim of all the comprehensive political efforts of the DRA delegation in the UN General Assembly discussion.

I should say clearly that as a result of the stand adopted by such hostile countries as the United States and Pakistan, the Pakistani side unfortunately again proposed an addendum to this amended draft by the Arab Republic of Syria and Democratic Yemen. It was an interfering draft and, once again, as in previous years, contained unrealistic and impractical resolutions, which were one-sided, unbalanced, and not able to cover all the sides and motives in the situation around Afghanistan.

I should clearly state that these amendments proposed by the Arab Republic of Syria and Democratic Yemen, which themselves expressed the serious observation of the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, were welcomed by the majority of UN members. As you and the esteemed television and radio audience are aware, the DRA has for several months strived to find a truly correct, logical, and comprehensive political solution to the situation around Afghanistan.

For this reason we sent our goodwill delegations to more than 53 countries. During the discussions at the United Nations, meetings were carried out with the foreign ministers of more than 33 member countries of the Nonaligned Movement.

Before the UN discussion on the so-called Afghanistan issue, the DRA delegation and DRA representatives to the United Nations conversed with more than 137 countries' UN members on the draft amended resolution considered acceptable by all sides. I can say to you clearly that all these countries supported this amendment. They approved the very constructive, realistic, and practical efforts undertaken by Syria, the PDRY, and Afghanistan, which of course had carried out comprehensive efforts to cooperate on this resolution.

We can say that this on its own, from the political standpoint, was an important, sensitive, and historical round or stage in this UN General Assembly discussion. From a political point of view, notable headway was made with all UN members concerning the national reconciliation program, and Afghanistan's good will at the Geneva talks with regard to halting Pakistan's interference and then reaching a comprehensive political solution concerning the situation around Afghanistan.

However, you know that the efforts by Pakistan and the United States in confronting our proposals were very acute. You know that Pakistan also recently sent its

delegations out into the world—its delegations of ill-will compared to our goodwill delegations. Pakistan and the United States wanted to deliver messages and untruths and to present their unrealistic drafts to the UN members.

We can say that the result of the ballot was not a manifestation of the political stand of all the members of the United Nations. Most of these UN members unanimously defend DRA policy; they defend the national reconciliation policy. They support the view that interference takes place in DRA affairs, mainly from Pakistan, and that enormous assistance is given by the United States to the leaders of the extremists fighting against Afghanistan's revolution.

The recent meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and heads of the extremists during the discussion on the so-called Afghanistan issue, as well as his encouragement and promises of increased assistance, reveal the extensive and comprehensive interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

I can say to you and to our dear compatriots that the DRA's political stand at the international forum was sensible. The world understands the rights of the DRA stand, both in the speech delivered by the head of the DRA delegation and in the comprehensive contacts it had with all the members of the UN organization. We will continue our efforts. We need peace and we will support a resolution which is capable of ensuring peace in our country. We, as an independent state, will pay no attention to any resolution that will be biased, interfering, or does not take into consideration the national interests, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and independence of a free and independent Afghanistan. We will not implement or put into practice such a resolution.

[Announcer] Comrade Abdul Wakil, thank you for your explanation. Our second question is about your official visit to the GDR. How do you assess your visit to that country?

[Wakil] As you know, on our way back from the United Nations we made an official friendly visit to the GDR at the invitation of that country's foreign minister. During our visit, we had useful and official meetings and talks with Comrade Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED; Willi Stoph, premier of the GDR; and Oskar Fischer, the GDR foreign minister.

The talks took place in a friendly, comradely, and constructive climate. They dealt primarily with topics of mutual economic, technical, and cultural cooperation relations, international political and economic issues, and the political situation of the region.

During the talks with GDR party and state authorities, common points of view were expressed. The GDR party and state leadership once again expressed its complete, decisive, and fraternal support for the DRA's foreign policy and for the national reconciliation policy to end the war and bloodshed in Afghanistan and to establish peace and security in the country.

As you know, the GDR has been rendering comprehensive assistance to us, especially in the spheres of power, energy, communications, radio and television, public health, and education. In connection with this mutual assistance and cooperation there is now hope that after this visit the volume of this assistance and cooperation will further increase. In our view, therefore, this visit was very useful, particularly in connection with the information the DRA delegation conveyed to the GDR side on national reconciliation.

The GDR party and state leadership were fully informed about all the recent developments in the DRA. This is manifested in the fact that with each day the DRA's political stand in the international arena enjoys the vast support of all our international friends, all peace-loving, freedom-loving, and progressive countries of the world. We hope that the results of our official visit will be useful in the future for the consolidation of friendship between the parties, states, and peoples of both our countries. Thank you for your questions.

[Announcer] Well, esteemed Comrade 'Abdul Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA foreign minister, we thank you for replying to our questions.

[Wakil] Thank You. [end recording]

## Mujahidin Leader Rejects 'Conditional' Solution

*PM231135 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 14 Nov 87 p 15*

[Report on interview with Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, Hezb-e Eslami leader, by Amjad Rida; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] *'Ukaz:* To begin with, we would like to be acquainted with the latest developments inside Afghanistan. What is the true picture of the mujahidin's situation, and how do the forces of the Soviet invasion control the territories they occupy?

Leader engineer Hikmatyar replies in an optimistic tone, certain of a better future in view of his knowledge of the bright reality of jihad. He said: Praise be to God, the present situation inspires optimism for the good. Matters are proceeding in favor of the mujahidin. By contrast the Soviets have suffered heavy losses during all the offensives they have launched inside Afghan territory. The mujahidin are concentrating their mortal blows against the enemy's military centers, airfields, and trains whereas the enemy launches his attacks on the mujahidin's centers and villages around them, including innocent citizens.

In order to clarify the picture we would say that in the past the Soviets used to launch three offensives in three seasons during the year; namely, summer, spring, and the period preceding winter. This year they only managed to carry out one offensive in the spring. Because they suffered heavy losses they could not continue their offensives. The war is now taking place in areas occupied by the Soviets, which does not exceed 10 percent of Afghan territory. Most Afghan territory has been liberated by the mujahidin. And as a step forward we have formed official government departments to assume responsibilities for the people's affairs in the liberated areas. [passage omitted]

*'Ukaz:* During the past period why did you not think seriously about forming a government-in-exile comprising the various resistance factions within a framework that would provide for unity and multiplicity of viewpoints—a matter which would perhaps have led to comprehensive international recognition? Have differences among resistance factions anything to do with this? Specifically what and how serious are these differences?

Hikmatyar: With regard to a temporary government, actually we are now thinking of forming a mujahidin government. Numerous proposals have been presented in this regard, and we shall conduct elections in the areas liberated in order to form a consultative (shura) council to play a role in appointing a head of the mujahidin government. [passage omitted]

As for the reasons for differences among the mujahidin parties, I believe they are known. We are not alone in facing this problem, since all Islamic movements throughout the world are facing similar if not worse obstacles. In fact, I see the Islamic Alliance in a much better situation, since it comprises seven organizations among which understanding and cooperation prevail at both military and political levels. They all seek to achieve one objective, unity. [passage omitted]

*'Ukaz:* Let us return once again to the talk of a government-in-exile. Do you not believe that the delay in announcing a mujahidin government could create a political vaccum that would prompt the other parties to draw up political forms as solutions that might be unacceptable or against the interests of the cause?

Hikmatyar: Let us review developments in this situation. In the past the Soviets insisted that all negotiations be conducted with the agent regime in Kabul, on the pretext that they were not a party to the problem and that they came into Afghanistan only in response to a call from the Kabul regime which was seeking support. But this year the Soviets have agreed to direct negotiations. In fact, most negotiations have been conducted in Moscow through various delegations.

In the past, the Soviets maintained that the Pakistani Government should recognize the Kabul government. However, they now maintain that a coalition government can be formed within which the mujahidin may play a role. They announced the national accord, but the mujahidin rejected both the coalition government and national accord on the basis that the jihad was basically launched to resist the agent government before the Soviet invasion was carried out. After our country was invaded the mujahidin confronted the invaders. So how can we end the war under the agent government and the Soviet invasion? And why should we accept a national accord when there is no civil war to stop within the framework of a national accord, but rather a resistance to an occupying communist, Soviet invasion?

The withdrawal of the Soviets is the solution to the problem now. But current negotiations focus on the form of a future government after the withdrawal, since the Soviets insist on the need to secure a major role for communists within such a government. The Afghan people reject communists and thus reject the idea of their having any role.

Here we have the answer to your question: We would say that we do realize that the formation of a mujahidin government-in-exile is of great importance in enabling us to discuss and manage all our affairs, fill the gap after the Soviet withdrawal, and prevent any struggle over power. [passage omitted]

*'Ukaz:* Let us move on to another point. It has always been reported that crucial decisions on the Afghan issue tend to be taken abroad, and that hopes are pinned on the Reagan-Gorbachev summit. What is your comment? And do you believe that the Soviets will leave Afghanistan before they secure their interests there?

Hikmatyar: If the choice is in the Soviets' hands and they are unwilling to leave without securing their interests in Afghanistan, I would say that the Soviet Union will leave Afghanistan just as the United States left Vietnam.

The daily losses inflicted on the Soviets in Afghanistan, as well as the pressure exerted by world public opinion in favor of the Afghan cause, will in fact force the Soviets to unconditionally withdraw. Our people do not accept conditional solutions. After 9 years of jihad, during which we have made limitless sacrifices, it would not be reasonable to accept any conditions, or else the problem could have been settled long ago.

We have decided not to be a party to any negotiations held to discuss Afghanistan's future, since this is a matter that can only be settled by the Afghans. However, we are ready to engage in direct negotiations to discuss how the Soviets should withdraw from our territory.

*'Ukaz:* The story of the Stinger missiles obtained by the Tehran regime was open to speculation, all of which indicates that Iran obtained these missiles through a mujahidin faction. What are the facts behind the Stinger missiles story?

[Hikmatyar] Yunis Khalis has clarified this matter. As far as I know, a mujahidin group belonging to Yunis Khalis' organization was carrying a quantity of arms, including Stinger missiles, and was heading toward Herat Province via the Iranian-Afghan border. It was overtaken by floods and forced to enter Iranian territory. A clash immediately took place between the mujahidin and individuals from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, who seized the arms, including the Stinger missiles.

*'Ukaz:* What impact do you expect the Iranian-Soviet rapprochement to have on your relationship with Iran? And do you believe that this could be at the expense of your cause?

Hikmatyar: Undoubtedly Iran's relationship with the Soviets has had an impact on the Afghan problem, to the point that it is being said that the Soviets are waiting for the outcome of the Iraq-Iran war to settle the situation in Afghanistan. Undoubtedly Iran's move toward the Soviets will eliminate one of the fronts, thus reducing the pressure on the Soviets. [passage omitted]

### Demands Soviet Withdrawal

*HK241236 Hong Kong XINHUA in English 0854 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] Islamabad, November 24 (XINHUA)—Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, president of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, declared that the Afghan people have forced the Soviet Union to express willingness for pulling out its troops within a short time from Afghanistan after rendering a sacrifice of 1.2 million people, *Agency Afghan Press* (AAP) reported today.

Hikmatyar, who is also one of the leaders of the seven-party alliance of the Afghan mujahidin (holy-war fighters), demanded:

—The Soviets to pull out their troops without any formal agrement. The coming administration should have the support and blessings of the resistance forces and should be formed in consultations with them.

—The Soviet Union and the United States should recognize such a government.

—The Soviet Union should agree on a time frame in the Geneva talks with Pakistan and should enforce this time-table.

—The direct talks between resistance forces and the Soviet Union should be held on the withdrawal of the Soviet troops.

The resistance leader stated that according to his information, the Soviet Union had told chief of the Kabul regime Najibullah during his recent stay in Moscow that Soviet troops no longer could stay in Afghanistan and the administration should have been strong enough to defend itself after eight years.

Hikmatyar, added that the resistance forces would not suspend the armed struggle as long as a single Soviet soldier remains in the country.

## Bangladesh

### President Sees Strike as Work of 'Leftists'

*BK231625 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] President Ershad has categorically made it clear that election is the only democratic means to change the elected government. He was speaking at a high-level meeting of the Home Ministry at the Secretariat in Dhaka today. The president said the pattern of the present movement spearheaded by a section of opposition political parties is not at all democratic. It is an act of subversion in line with the leftist design to grab power by disrupting stability, national economy, and social peace. He said uprooting railway tracks, arson, destruction of public properties, and throwing bombs cannot be described as a democratic movement. What these elements have been doing in the name of democracy is nothing but taking the country to the path of chaos and anarchy. In the name of so-called movement, a section of politicians are attempting to create disorder to thwart progress and weaken national cohesion and the economy.

The president firmly said the government and the nation cannot remain silent spectators to such vandalism and indiscipline. A democratic government cannot allow the country to be taken over by leftists. The government will resist this ominous design of these politicians with all its might with the cooperation of people who want peace and progress and have faith in Allah. The president expressed his government's determination to protect sovereignty and ensure peace and progress of the country at any cost. In this context, he urged the conscious section of the society to realize the ominous trend of the opposition movement and extend their cooperation to the government to maintain peace and stability. He also asked the authorities to be on guard against spreading rumors and take appropriate action in this respect.

The deputy prime minister in charge of the ministry of home affairs, Prof. M. A. Matin, was present.

## India

### USSR's Ryzhkov Continues Official Visit

#### Visits Bhilai Steel Plant

*BK230925 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] The Soviet prime minister, Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov, visited the Bhilai steel plant in Madhya Pradesh this afternoon. He went round various units of the plant,

including the blast furnance set up 3 decades ago with Soviet assistance. The steel and mines minister, Mr Fotedar, received the visiting dignitary and took him round the plant.

### Afghan Refugees Stage Protest

*BK211600 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] Afghan refugees in New Delhi today clashed with police while protesting against the Soviet prime minister's visit to India. These refugees were raising slogans against the Soviet Union. About 100 Afghan refugees were arrested when they tried to break the police ring. The Afghan citizens set on fire the Soviet flag near the UN office.

### USSR's Vorontsov Discusses Global Issues

*BK230345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] The first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, called on the union minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, in New Delhi yesterday. They discussed the situation in the Gulf, including the Iran-Iraq war. They also discussed the situation in southern Africa with emphasis on the struggle for the freedom of Namibia. The situation in Central America came up for discussion. They supported the Guatemala declaration as a means of ensuring regional peace.

### Congress-I Secretary Urges LTTE To Hold Talks

*BK230415 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] The All India Congress-I general secretary, Mr G.K. Moopanar, has said that the LTTE leadership should take the first step for holding talks with the Indian Government availing of the opportunity of PKF [peacekeeping force] position of not to fire on its own. Speaking to newsmen in Madras yesterday, Mr Moopanar said the unilateral decision of the Indian Government is indication enough that it is prepared to have a discussion with the LTTE leadership, Mr Prabhakaran. Mr Moopanar said that the talks could be resumed from the point where they were last terminated.

## Iran

### Majlis Speaker Continues Visits to Provinces

#### Visits Sari, Views Maneuvers

*LD211324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's Supreme Defense Council representative, arrived in Sari this morning to view maneuvers held by 300,000 Mobiliation [Basij] forces in Mazandaran Province to dispatch the Holy Muhammad Corps—peace be upon him and his scion—and to meet with the clergymen, officials, and people of the province. He was welcomed by the imam's representatives to Mazandaran, Gorgan, and Dasht; the governor general; Shi'ite and Sunni Friday imams and clergymen; and provincial dignitaries and deputies.

In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent about the important Supreme War Support Council message and its role in maintaining and strengthening a war atmosphere throughout Islamic society, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: It was a perfectly suitable move befitting the time; it was begun by the people themselves.

The imam's Supreme Defense Council representative, referring to the dispatch of U.S. forces to the Persian Gulf and the increasing number of plots by the arch-Satan and regional reaction against the Islamic Republic of Iran, pointed out: Our people showed their political awareness and their readiness by extensively participating in unprecedented marches on 4 November alongside officials and with full (?knowledge) of all aspects of the plots. They exhibited their readiness to decisively confront the plots. Our nation's rushing to the scenes and supporting the battlefronts was a divine blessing. Our nation is dealing out just responses to the plots.

Praising the role of the people of Mazandaran in supporting the fronts and war, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: Mazandaran Province has always been a homeland for men. The figure of 300,000 Mobilization forces participating in the Mohammad Corps—peace be upon him and his scion—maneuvers, is a colossal one. This was expected of the people of Mazandaran, who have given impetus to a strong move to consolidate the battlefronts.

#### Meets With Friday Imams, Officials

*LD211734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, has attended a meeting [in Sari] of the imam's representatives in Mazandaran and Gorgan, the Friday and congregational imams, the governor general, and the Mazandaran Majlis deputies. He said the following in a speech there:

When the United States and regional reaction sensed the imminent fall of Saddam and the Ba'th Party that rule Iraq and the expansion of the Islamic movement in the region, they started opposing us.

He added: At the Amman meeting, the heads of the Arab countries who feel that their sovereignty is threatened ignored the most important issue for Muslims—the occupation of innocent Palestine—and said Islamic Iran was the main danger.

The imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council, referring to the popular forces' enthusiastic receipt of the important Supreme War Support Council declaration stressed the need to continue this move of sizeable forces to the battlefronts, as well as to expand the financial mobilization. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the important and decisive role of the clergy in the victory and the continuation of the Islamic Revolution and praised their presence at the battlefronts.

According to the report of the correspondent of the Central News Unit, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani left for Gonbad-e Qabus this afternoon after a brief stop in Gorgan in order to participate in the 100,000-strong Holy Mohammad Maneuvers, peace be upon him and all his scion.

### Addresses Gonbad Rally

*NC220805 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, more than 30 divisions of volunteer forces from the cities in eastern Mazandaran, Gorgan, and Dasht participated in the massive maneuvers of the warriors Corps of Muhammad—peace be upon him and his scion—in the presence of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council in Gonbad. In these unprecedented maneuvers, the noble Mobilization forces displayed their combat readiness. They marched in the streets of Gonbad and declared their readiness to combat all plots by world oppression and to continue the war until the aggressor regime of Iraq is toppled. The marchers then congregated in the Takhti sports stadium in Gonbad.

Addressing this mammoth gathering of 100,000 people, the imam's deputy on the Supreme Defense Council declared that the unity between the Sunni and Shi'ite combatants is a (?clear) indication of Iran's victory in the imposed war.

The report states: Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani was greeted by slogans of "War! war until victory," "We are not the people of Kufah to forsake the imam," and "The Persian Gulf—site of Reagan's internment!" He was welcomed by more than 100,000 warriors of Muhammad—peace be upon Him and his scion.

Addressing the warriors, he said: The enemies of Islam would certainly change their views if they could only see this great gathering. He added: In this region, the people from Fars, Torkaman Sahra, Sistan va Baluchestan, and those who were subjected to years of propaganda regarding relations between Shi'ites and Sunnis, are now (?poised) on the same level voicing the same slogans. Those who consider the imposed war to be one between Shi'ites and Sunnis will feel ashamed when they witness such a gathering. They will realize that their accusations were unfounded.

It would behoove those who call our struggle a nationalist issue of Arabs and non-Arabs to glance at this scene and see that our Sunni brothers are actively present at the fronts. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The Iranian nation initiated its struggle in the year 1356 [1977] and has not yet looked back. By sacrificing lives and [word indistinct] and by suffering hardships and enduring the revolution's tribulations, we now see victory approaching. We almost feel this victory.

The imam's deputy in the Supreme Defense Council said: The roughnecks of our time tried to send Marines to the region but did not achieve the desired results. Their officials admitted that that deployment of forces was a foolish and futile act. Proof of this is the extensive gatherings of our people.

Referring to the maneuvers in which 300,000 combatants of Mazandaran Province participated, he said: The province that was a target of [words indistinct] plots by the former regime and where nationalistic and sectarian discord were fanned for years is now the venue of a united front whereby the people are ready to struggle and to sacrifice together. The unity of Shi'ite and Sunni is a major triumph of the Islamic movement.

Concluding his address, the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council stressed: After driving the enemy out of its country, this nation will deliver the Iraqi people. Together with them, this nation will initiate a united (?plan) to liberate Palestine and Jerusalem and to see the Ka'bah and the house of God become independent. Thus, apostasy, oppression, and exploitation will be uprooted from the world of Islam.

### Addresses Gathering in Babol

*NC230844 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Recorded telephone report by Central News Unit correspondent in Sari]

[Text] Majlis Speaker Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has attended a zealous gathering of the ever-prepared people of Babol at the Friday congregation mosque. In his speech to them he referred to the defeat of the U.S. policy of militarizing the Persian Gulf, saying: We can find no other nation in the world standing so steadfastly before the threats of arrogant powers or becoming more determined in the face of sieges and military expeditions. The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council added that today the Islamic Revolution has terrified arrogance, which has carried out an extended military expedition in the Persian Gulf.

The Majlis speaker then praised the vast support the selfless Mazandaran people have given to the fronts and to the war, as well as the extensive presence of Basij forces of this province on the war front, adding: The popular forces of Mazandaran are among our bravest

fighting forces on the fronts, and the presence of the valorous fighters of this area is a determining factor in the most difficult operations.

### Interviewed on U.S Gulf Action

*LD231206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that at the end of his 2-day trip to Mazandaran Province, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave an exclusive interview to a Sari Central News Unit correspondent. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani was asked how he assessed the future, considering the expansion of plots by the United States and its allies against Iran. He replied:

Although the enemies of Islam are gathered before us, our nation showed that it is resolute and will continue to defend its just rights and that it is prepared to make an investment to propagate and establish Islam. This is the reason for our success.

He added: All who are standing against the Muslim nation of Iran are now sorry, since they have seen the all-around movement of our people in the defense of the ideals of Islam and the achievements of the Islamic Revolution.

Regarding the U.S. provocative action yesterday in the Persian Gulf, he added: We must always be ready to combat U.S. plots in the Persian Gulf. Of course, it is not the Islamic Republic's policy to cause a clash, but our policy is defensive. But if arrogance wants to violate our nation's rights, it will receive a stronger answer.

Regarding his assessment of Mazandaran Province, he said: During my stay in Mazandaran, I observed a powerful saga of zeal and motivation while in the presence of the people of the province. The Mazandaran people have made me a lot happier.

### Addresses Mashhad Group

*LD231458 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Nov. 23, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Monday that arrogant powers are caught in the trap (the Iraqi-imposed war) they set for Iran and are humbly pleading Iranian officials to let the aggressor go unpunished. Addressing a million-plus Mohammad (SAW) Corps in this northeastern city, the speaker said that global arrogance's arming of Iraq with missiles has spurred Iran to make noticeable progress in manufacturing powerful missiles which consequently cut the access of Iraq and its partners to the Persian Gulf.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the U.S. proposal for an arms embargo on Iran as an 'old, rusted weapon' aimed at saving Saddam Husayn from his doomed fate. The Americans are vainly trying to put pressure on the nerves of the martyrdom-seeking Iranian people in a desperate bid to save reactionary regimes in the region, he added. Today, noted the speaker, the massive presence of the Iranian people on the scene has foiled all intimidations of global arrogance against the Islamic Republic.

The Majlis speaker said that America's futile attempts to mar the Islamic Republic's ties with anti-imperialist countries utterly failed. The Muslim nation of Iran is the only nation able to fight all arrogant powers single-handedly, he pointed out. Hundreds of millions of people in Asia, Latin America, Europe and other parts of the world are amazed at the faith, power and bravery of the Iranian people, said the speaker who is also the Imam's representative to the Supreme Defence Council. The enemies' plot to brand the Islamic Republic as a warmongering country at the United Nations was completely foiled and the Almighty helped Iranian officials expose the aggressor Iraq to the world, he remarked.

Prior to his departure for Mashhad this morning, the speaker told reporters in Sari, Mazandaran Province, that Iranian people should be ready for any incident as long as U.S. military forces are present in the region, because he said, when incidents take place, they may get out of control. The Islamic Republic does not favor military clashes in the region but will give decisive responses to those attempting to trigger clashes, concluded the speaker.

### Meets With Friday Prayer Imams

*LD241002 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Province, Nov. 24, IRNA—Muslims with revolutionary, anti-imperialistc and anti-infidelity thoughts are fiercely suppressed in Tunisia, Egypt and other countries on the pretext of being inspired by Islamic revolution in Iran, said Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Monday. Speaking in a meeting with leaders of Friday prayers of Khorasan Province, the Majlis speaker added that this is a compromise between world powers and their subservient governments to inflict blows upon Muslims. This is a good chance to introduce real Islam to the public opinion of the world instead of what had been presented in the past under the name of Islam, he said.

The world media made fun of the Saudi brand of Islam until a decade ago but now it is supported and they (the media) are against revolutionary Islam in Iran, in Lebanon, Tunisia and all Arab countries and refer to it as a terrorist Islam, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said. He said never in the history of Islam discussed in the world mass media in a positive or negative view as now, and added that our doctrine is presented today as a system saving the mankind. He added that one of its achievements is that Marxists do not have any slogans to give in our country.

In another part of his speech, he said that known elements in certain Arab countries claim that the Zionist regime supplies Iran with arms. But the revolutionary Arab public opinion witnesses serious campaign against the usurping of Qods in Iran. Even Palestinians do not fight against the Zionist regime as much as Iranian combatants. The campaign against the tyrannies of imperialism and reaction are the attractive slogans of Iran's Islamic Revolution and that is why the world powers are against us, he said.

Referring to the presence of U.S. fleets in the Persian Gulf, he said that the danger has deepened more today and any time an incident may occur. "Just a few days ago" he said, "they wanted to approach our ship. Of course, we do not want to cause a war but the U.S. may do so in order to save the Iraqi regime."

On the effects of the behind-the-fronts moves in recent victories including Nasr-8 operations (launched Friday), Hojjat ol-Eslami Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that most people in Iraq are Muslims and are under pressure. If Iraq were liberated, the global oppression would not dare waste oil and wealth of world of Islam now that the Iranian and Iraqi people are practically treading the same path.

**Khamene'i Addresses IRGC Commanders in Esfahan**

*NC230638 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Continuing his visit to Esfahan, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme War Support Council, met with commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] of Seyyed al-Shohada second district yesterday afternoon. He stated in a speech: The IRGC throughout the country should expand the training and organization of the popular forces. He added: The IRGC shoulders a great responsibility in recruiting, training, and organizing the people. It should give a major boost to its program for this in all provinces and cities.

President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, who went to Esfahan yesterday morning to attend the million-strong Muhammad Rasul Allah exercises of the people of Esfahan, returned to Tehran last night.

**Addresses Group in Kashan**

*LD241039 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] Kashan, Nov. 24, IRNA—President and head of the Supreme Defense Council 'Ali Khamene'i arrived here Tuesday morning as part of his tour of various cities and participation in the Mohammad (SAW) Corps maneuvers. Addressing the Qods Support Division-29 of Kashan the President said that Iran is stronger than ever after seven years of imposed war and the enemy is in total despair.

President Khamene'i who was dressed in combat uniform assured that the Islamic Republic of Iran is stronger than the early days of the revolution. Iran, he added, is in full control of its southern coastal borders which has created fear in the heart of the U.S. and its lackeys. He further told the participants that Iran will get arms from any market that it deemed necessary, adding that the country's domestic arms output has increased sufficiently enough to export a segment of its output. He added, Iran produces sophisticated missiles.

In addition to great achievements in the field of arms production, he said, Iran is now able to mobilize hundreds of thousands of Basij forces. On the contrary, the president stressed, the Iraqi Regime is in its weakest ever position and its army is shattered and demoralized.

**Khomeyni Receives Islamic Guards, Others**

*LD231500 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Excerpts] A group of Islamic Revolution Guards personnel and Mobilization forces stationed in Jamaran, together with personnel from the defense units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and some of the Islamic Revolution Committee deputies in charge of intelligence and operations, met with the imam of the ummah at Hoseyniyah Jamaran, this morning. [passage omitted] At the end of this visit, Imam Khomeyni responded to the emotions expressed by the audience.

**Khamene'i on Necessity of Clerics at Fronts**

*LD211156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, today discussed the sensitive nature of the problem of war and various plots hatched by global arrogance against the Islamic Revolution at a gathering of clerics and Friday prayer leaders of Tehran Province, who had gathered to declare their readiness to be present at the war fronts.

President Khamene'i said: The sensitive nature of the problem of war is more acute today than in the past. Our enemies now realize that as time passes the danger of the Islamic regime—or in their own words, Islamic fundamentalism—becomes clearer. They realize, contrary to their earlier belief, that the Islamic Republic has not shown a tendency to compromise; it has not become a victim of civil war or domestic unrest. Therefore, global arrogance's fear has increased; each day they hatch a new plot against us.

The president added: Over the past year the United States prepared multiple plots and moves against the Islamic Republic and brought severe pressure on us. In these moves, it was fully backed by European and regional reaction. Our enemies' conspiracies are so well calculated that the slightest oversight on our part could

result in our receiving a blow. If certain events in the Persian Gulf—which materialized in the form of divine succor—had not occurred, global arrogance would have imposed heavy pressure on us.

Referring to the neutralization of U.S. plots, the president said: To confront these conspiracies we are in need of two basic moves: first, to move toward the objectives of the revolution while maintaining our unity and shelving differences; and second, to attach utmost importance to the war. We must stand up against plots and carry the war to its definite and desirable conclusion.

Referring to the constructive role played by the ulema and the clerics on the warfront, the president said: The role of clerics in the war is very sensitive. The battlefields are now in dire need of the active presence of clerics. The presence of clerics on the battlefields is a necessity. Today is the day on which we must examine the situation and devote part of our time to the war. Our place is on the battlefields. Therefore, clerics must pay more attention to the problem of the war.

## Congress on Hajj Issues To Be Held in Tehran

*LD201502 Tehran IRNA in English 0857 GMT 20 Nov 87*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Iran will host a congress on "sanctity and security of haram (sanctuary)" here next week to be attended by Muslim scholars, personalities and ulema from all over the world.

Minister of culture and Ershad-e Islamic (Islamic Guidance) [Khatami] told a news conference here Thursday night that the 4-day gathering, to start Nov. 23, will discuss issues of the Muslim world with regards to hajj (pilgrimage) and the security of the "Haramayn Sharifain" (the two holy places in Mecca and Medina).

Khatami whose ministry has organised the congress, further said that so far many prominent scholars invited to attend the gathering, have arrived in Tehran.

According to the minister, observers attach great importance to the outcome of the congress which will also discuss the idea of administering the two holy sites in Mecca and Medina by a committee of Islamic states.

Khatami said the two similar gatherings held by Saudi Arabia and Egypt following the Saudi massacre of hajj pilgrims in July, had failed because they were hosts to what he described as a handful of pseudo-clergymen attached to the Royal Court.

The minister said the Tehran Congress will expose the real face of the Wahhabis [Saudi rulers] and their contempt for Islamic sanctities. It will also show to the world the innocence of the hajj pilgrims to Mecca whose cries of "antipathy towards pagans" were suppressed by Saudi gunfire, he said.

The minister of Ershad said the Tehran congress was being held upon the request of the Muslim peoples of the world, including Islamic scholars and thinkers. "By holding this gathering," Khatami said, "we want to declare to the world that we will never forget the horrible crime of massacring the pilgrims to the house of God."

## Khamene'i, Khatami Address Group

*LD231316 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—The four-day international congress on sancity and security of Haramayn (the two holy shrines in Mecca) opened here Monday morning with an inaugural speech by President 'Ali Khamene'i and participation of aboout 300 Muslim scholars.

Addressing the participants, President Khamene'i said that even if this year's massacre had not occurred in Mecca, still Muslim personalities and scholars should have exchanged views on the sanctity and security of the holy shrines.

He stressed that security of the holy Mecca is a fundamental and principal issue. Therefore, he added, world Muslims should come together to explore ways to maintain security of this holy place.

The president referred to hajj pilgrimage as the manifestation of international spirit of Islam which rejects any form of schism and calls for a constant campaign against secessionist and monopolistic tendencies.

He noted that this year' bloodshed in Mecca is a vivid proof of the lack of security in Mecca, stressing that what is more important in this incident is the sanctity of the holy shrines.

The Saudi Regime has clearly infringed all regulations concerning Islam and the Islamic world, President Khamene'i said, adding that rulers of Mecca and Medina are imposing their ideas on world Muslims.

Security of Mecca necessitated administration of a group of competent people and presence of world Muslims, he added. Therefore, the president said, the present superintendents of the Holy Mecca are incompetent to undertake the responsibility to which Muslim scholars should find a solution.

"We as a powerful system are capable of any confrontation in this connection and are not scared of support of the U.S. and other countries of the Saudis," Khamene'i said.

Referring to U.S. aggression in the Persian Gulf, the president said the measure was doomed to fail.

Meanwhile, minister of Islamic guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami said that the objective of holding the congress is to bring Muslim scholars together to find ways to maintain security and sanctity of holy Mecca.

He said that the Islamic revolution of Iran has proved that victory of Islam could be gained only in the light of faith and vast participation of Muslims in scenes of Jihad, adding that the revolution has dealt fatal blows on imperialism, U.S. in particular.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami referred to the crime Saudi rulers committed in Mecca this year and said that by doing so the Saudis have ruined all bridges behind them.

Elsewhere in his speech, the minister described the Amman Arab summit as the biggest disgrace ever recorded in the Arab history and said that presently reactionaries have joined the camp David fold to further announce their collaboration with the U.S.

He stressed that the holy shrines belong to all Muslims and should not be under the domination of U.S. and Zionist policies. He expressed hope that the congress will take great strides towards maintaining sanctity and security of the Holy Mecca.

### Hamadah 'Living Under Surveillance' in Tehran

*LD211637 Hamburg DPA in German 1330 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] Beirut, (DPA)—'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah, the alleged initiator of the kidnapping of the two FRG citizens Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt in West Beriut, is living under surveillance in the Iranian capital of Tehran. This was reported by his relatives on Saturday. He is allowed to move about Tehran but cannot return to the Lebanon.

'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah is the brother of 'Abbas and Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, who have been in prison in the Federal Republic since January and who are to be put on trial soon for air piracy, coercion, and possession of explosives. He is said to be a senior security official in the Shi'ite fundamentalist "Hizballah" (Party of God). Shortly after his accomplices had kidnapped Cordes and Schmidt on 17 and 22 January to try and obtain the release of Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah from German investigative custody, 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah flew to Tehran. At the time Lebanese security circles believed that he wanted to escape Syrian pressure to release the two Germans.

Meanwhile, Iran has withdrawn its political support for the "Hizballah" it was reported by a reliable source. One result was the release of the Siemens technician Schmidt on 7 September. In January Schmidt was in the process of installing X-ray equipment and other medical equipment in a new hospital in Muslim West Beirut. Iran and Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, who is regarded as the spiritual leader of the "Hizballah" in West Beirut, insisted on Schmidt's release because this was the precondition for resumption of work on the hospital, it was said.

### Musavi Confers With Japanese Envoy

*LD222316 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Japan's ambassador to Tehran Yoshiro Fuji Moto met and conferred with Prime Minister Husayn Musavi here today. Discussed in the meeting were bilateral relations and regional developments.

### Foreign Minister Heads Delegation to Japan

*LD230543 Tehran IRNA in English 0537 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Tehran, Nov 23, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati leading a political and economic delegation flew to Tokyo Monday for a three-day official visit.

Upon his departure, Velayati said that in his visit he will discuss Tehran-Tokyo ties and international issues with Japanese officials.

Iranian and Japanese foreign ministers have regularly visited Tokyo and Tehran and Velayati's trip to Japan is the fourth of the kind.

Velayati is accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic and International Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani, Majlis (Parliament) Deputy Sadeq Khalkhali and several officials from Oil and foreign ministries.

### USSR Envoy, Energy Official Hold Talks

*LD232039 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—The new Soviet ambassador to Tehran Vladimir V. Gudev met Energy Ministry Deputy for International Affairs Mohammad Reza Adeli here Monday. Views were exchanged at the meeting on Tehran-Moscow industrial cooperation in power generation and water industries, especially the construction of a reservoir dam on Aras River, bordering Azarbayjan Province, and the building of joint water installations on the border rivers of Atrak (Mazandaran Prov.) and Harirud (Khorasan Province). It was agreed that a sub-committee and a committee be formed to discuss issues concerning border waters, in the near future.

The Soviet ambassador expressed regret over Iraqi attacks on the Bushehr nuclear power plant, saying that attacks on nuclear installations are internationally banned. The two sides expressed hope that holding of the

11th Tehran-Moscow joint economic and technical commission in near future would yield results and that bilateral technical and engineering cooperation in power and water industries as well as energy issues would further expand.

### Oil Pipeline Discussed With Turkish Officials

*LD222309 Tehran IRNA in English 1831 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Turkey's Foreign Ministry Director-General Nicat Oktay [name as received] leading an oil-economic delegation conferred with his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Vaezi, here Sunday.

The two sides studied Tehran-Ankara trade and industrial cooperation as well as holding of the next joint commission session.

The first round of talks between Iranian and Turkish officials were held Saturday at the Oil Ministry, and centered on the proposed Iranian oil pipe-line to Turkey.

The frequent talks between the two countries' authorities have continued to yield results and the current meetings are also expected to prove successful.

The Turkish delegation arrived here Friday.

### Finance Official Returns From OPEC Meeting

*LD211019 Tehran IRNA in English 0652 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Economic and Financial Affairs Minister 'Ali Majedi returned to Tehran Saturday morning at the end of the 41st session of the board of governors of the OPEC fund for international development in Vienna.

Speaking to IRNA upon arrival Majedi said that the session approved 14 loans to poor African countries including Mozambique, Zambia and Burkina Faso, and another 250,000 U.S. dollars in grant to the Palestinians.

He said as a result of the objections of the Iranian delegation to the board of governors of the fund against Saudi chairmanship and the arguments theron, grounds have now been prepared for agreeing on a ceiling in tenure of every member chairman of the sessions.

Since its establishment ten years ago, the fund has granted 425 loans amounting to more than dls. 20 billion to needy countries. It now has 900 million U.S. dollars in cash assets.

### Ardebili Condemns Arab Summit in Shiraz Speech

*LD211451 Tehran IRNA in English 0625 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Nov. 21, IRNA—Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi Ardebili said here Friday that the bulk of Iran's arms needs are produced in the country.

Ayatollah Musavi Ardebili who was speaking to a large gathering of the people of Shiraz, condemned the Amman Arab summit conference and its resolution.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran by its principled stance at the United Nations and other international circles has thwarted the plots of its enemies.

The chief justice stressed on the war as the prime issue in the country and urged public contributions to requisitions at war fronts.

### 'Campaign of Terror' Against Bahrain's Muslims

*LD201854 Tehran IRNA in English 1846 GMT 20 Nov 87*

[Text] London, Nov. 20, IRNA—A campaign of terror has been waged against Muslims in Bahrain following last week's celebrations of Islamic unity week, according to reports reaching London.

Sources from Bahrain told IRNA Friday that several arrests were made by security forces in the aftermath of the gatherings, where protests were made about the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf and the use of the island as a U.S. base.

They said in one incidence a Muslim youth named Ibrahim Hasan was charged with chanting "Death to America" and was severely tortured with "his hair pulled out of his head" as a warning to others participating again.

Security forces also threatened relgious leaders for taking part in the gatherings and issuing statements condemning those who collaborate with the enemies of Islam.

"They were told that the security forces had been ordered by the highest authorities to machine-gun further gatherings, while they themselves would be severely dealt with," the Bahraini sources said.

They added that the situation was "very tense" in Bahrain and further harassments were expected as the people of Bahrain "categorically object to the transformation of their country to U.S. forces' headquarters."

Demonstrations against the U.S. presence have been mounting in Bahrain since the Americans monopolised the islands as their main base of operations for 30 warships and some 20,000 Marines in and near the Persian Gulf.

Bahrain consists of around 35 tiny islands with its archipelago totalling only 678 square kms for its own 298,500 inhabitants. Its own armed forces numbers less than 3,000.

### Tehran Cites REUTER on Attacks on 2 Ships

*LD231838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] *Reuter*, quoting shipping sources in the Persian Gulf, reported that a Romanian ship named *Fundulea* was the target of gunboats in the Gulf of Oman and caught fire. As a result, three of the ship's crew were wounded. Shipping sources in the Persian Gulf also report that a 16,859 ton Panamanian ship named *Unimaster* was hit by gunboats in the Strait of Hormuz and slightly damaged. This attack did not result in any loss of life.

### Greek Captain Comments on Ship Inspection

*LD232132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] The captain of the Greek ship which, suspected of transporting cargo for Iraq, was confiscated and inspected by the personnel of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Sunday despite the interference of U.S. ships and helicopters, said in an interview with our correspondent on Monday:

I thought I had chosen a safe passage. However, later I realized that it was within the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the confiscation of the Greek ship, he said: On 21 November, after entering this area, I was intercepted by the Iranian Navy.

### Navy Commander Interviewed on Gulf Situation

*LD231609 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Interview with Navy Commander Commodore Malekzadegan by an unidentified correspondent on the "Armed Forces" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Commodore Malekzadegan, Islamic Republic of Iran Navy commander, has returned from a tour of the Persian Gulf region where he inspected the ever vigilant units of the force. He replied to some questions posed by our correspondent. We draw your attention to the interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Commodore, thank you for your time. Given the readiness of our nation and our Armed Forces in the wake of a new stage in the war, can you comment about the role and responsibility shouldered by the Navy at this crucial juncture?

[Malekzadegan] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our naval units have the most important role in the vital and sensitive region of the Persian Gulf. That is to say, the Persian Gulf is an open sea and unlike the warfronts where one threat and a specified force is expected—in the West we have our Iraqi enemies, quite unlike the sea where traffic is different—and, our seaborne units are facing potential actual enemies at any moment. This shows the sensitive missions the Navy conducts. Therefore, we must address the Navy with a higher status and credibility and give it support. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In light of the extensive military presence of the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf, as well as actual threats against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran along our sea and land frontiers in the south, how do you view the Navy's readiness to confront these threats?

[Malekzadegan] The presence of the foreign fleets and forces here has made us more resolute in carrying out our missions since they have increased our combatants' will to fight them, like a warning would. The Navy, thanks be to God, having made great efforts in various fields including technology, logistics, operations, and others, is in a desirable state of readiness, thanks to its devout personnel and operations carried out on many fronts—on sea and land as well as on islands. I spoke to the personnel a few days ago in the southern sea zone. They were so enthusiastic and spoke of such high morale that I felt proud of their courage and resolve despite all odds in the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted] I tell our esteemed nation that we will fight with power and belief in the exalted God in the face of the foreign forces.

[Correspondent] On the eve of Islamic Republic of Iran Navy Day on 28 November, do you have any messages for our sea warriors and the martyr-nurturing nation?

[Malekzadegan] I must say that all our days are Navy Day, since the region has become so tense and sensitive that every day becomes a Navy Day due to the daily incidents occurring in the sea, all of which are worthy of note. We honor Navy Day, for the operations carried out on 28 November 1980 and for the esteemed martyrs of that day, martyrs of the ever-heroic crew of the Frigate *Peykan* by announcing we will withstand all plots. Our request of our martyr-nurturing nation is that of supporting the warfronts as before by boosting our morale so we can reach the final victory as soon as possible. [end recording]

### Combatant Affairs Office Established

*LD211401 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] In order to deal with the administrative difficulties facing the fighters of Islam, an office for the fighters' affairs has been set up in the state administrative and employment affairs organization and it has started to function.

According to the Central News Unit, the deputy prime minister and secretary general of the state administrative and employment affairs organization announced the above and said that the dear fighters, specifically the civil servants who have been assigned to the front, may report their administrative difficulties to this office so that those difficulties may be investigated at the soonest possible time and be resolved.

The secretary general of the state administrative and employment affairs organization also said: In order to train experts for various offices we have provided basic training courses in the fields of electricity, mechanics, installations, and road and construction for the civil servants. We will soon instruct the government offices to implement the courses.

He added: In addition to the above, in order to raise the level of expertise of graduates who are employed in management jobs, we will implement in the near future correspondence courses for senior management positions in the public administration in various fields on a single subject basis. The courses will be under the direction of the state administrative and employment affairs organization.

### Nuclear Power Official Interviewed on Bushehr

*LD211532 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] Mr Amrollahi, deputy prime minister and supervisor of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, this morning gave a press and radio television interview for domestic and foreign correspondents. He explained the effects of the bombing of the Bushehr nuclear power station, as well as the results of the measures adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in condemning the attacks of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime at international forums.

Referring to the fact that the Bushehr power station has been attacked several times, he said: On the basis of documents approved by the International Atomic Energy Agency, no country has the right to attack the nuclear establishments of another country. Despite the fact that we were at war with the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, we condemned an Israeli attack on an Iraqi nuclear power station. In 1985 we proposed Resolution No 444 to the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was approved: According to this resolution no country has the right to attack the nuclear establishments of another country. It is now clear that the regime ruling over Iraq does not honor any international commitments.

He added: In the recent attacks on the Bushehr nuclear power station, 11 engineers, technicians, and workers were martyred and a number were also wounded. A German engineer was killed in the attack.

Expressing concern about leaks [as heard] from the radioactive material at the Bushehr power station, he said: The existence of radioactive material was necessary for the power station's operation. We have asked the IAEA to send experts to survey the radioactive dosage in the enviroment. It is still too soon to make any public statement about the extent of damage to the power station.

Referring to the reaction of the international organizations with regard to Iran's protest, he said: We were not able to announce the technical experts' decision. We are waiting for the technical views of international nuclear energy establishments. We hope that the world news media and public opinion will show more sensitivity to this problem, and that they will not allow any country, even the regime ruling over Iraq, to attack the nuclear power stations of another country.

### Mobilization Volunteers To Hold Exercises

*LD231601 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Bakhtaran, Nov. 23, IRNA—Eighty combat brigades comprising 100,000 Basij volunteer forces are to conduct maneuvers in this western border province next Monday, following similar ones held in Mazandaran, Isfahan and Khorasan Provinces. In another development 18 divisions of Basij volunteers forces will demonstrate their power during the maneuvers of Mohammad (S.A.W) Corps to be held in Arak, central province, next Friday. Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi, the provincial head of the Basij unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), said that over 63,000 Basiji have so far passed military training in the Central Province.

## Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

### Iraqi Mujahidin Operations

*LD220948 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Several units of Iraqi Muslim Mujahidin of Al-'Amarah branch attacked concentration center of Iraqi police and security guards east of Al-Amarah on November 17 and killed or wounded several of them.

The Iraqi Mujahidin besieged the area and started firing at vehicles of security guards from three angles and inflicted casualties on them. The attacking forces left the area before reinforcement troops reached the scene.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi government has directed its secret police branches in Yermuk, Alawiyah, Kazimiyah, Baba Shaykh and elsewhere to clamp down on security measures and arrest 'every suspicious person on the spot.' The order was issued in the waks of protest rallies in Baghdad on November 8. Despite strict security measures in parts of Baghdad, Iraqi mujahidin attacked a patrol police unit near the houses of Iraqi officers in Amariyah and killed several government agents and soon left the scene.

### Iraqi Officers Killed

*LD231103 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1018 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. Thanks to the alertness and initiative of the defenders of Islam, the sensitive 2,060 Heights, in the Hajj 'Umran sector, was cleansed of the filthy presence of the Saddamists and came under the full control of the Ground Forces fighters.

The second-in-command of the 433d Brigade of the 23d Division and the commander of the 3d Battalion of that brigade were killed in the operation. With the liberation of the heights, the number of enemy killed or wounded in the "Nasr-9" theater passed 1,200.

Heroic battle with the feeble enemy still continues for the attainment of predetermined goals.

### Height 2,080 'Liberated'

*LD231108 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1027 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. The extremely sensitive and strategic Height 2,080 was liberated in the "Nasr-9" operational theater, in Iraq's eastern Irbil Province. With the stationing of the forces of Islam on the heights, large parts of Iraqi soil in that sector came under the full control of the brave combatants of Islam. According to latest reports from the theater, the number of enemy killed or wounded passed 1,700.

### Iraqi Defense 'Disrupted'

*LD231113 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1028 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Muslim nation of Iran, please pay attention to the latest report handed to us! The legend-making fighters of the army of monotheism, in the course of their ceaseless battle in the "Nasr-9" operation, succeeded in disrupting the defensive formation of the Ba'thist enemy. According to a report received from "Nasr-9" operational theater, in the course of this operation one battery of 130-mm mortar launchers of the 909th Battalion was completely destroyed. The proud fighters of the army of monotheism also set fire to more than 10 ammunition depots belonging to the Ba'thist enemy and completely destroyed 2 Katyushas, 5 tanks, and more than 40 vehicles. In these victorious operations, tens of enemy soldiers were captured. Up to now, 35 of them have been transferred behind the front lines.

### 'Nasr-9' Operation Detailed

*LD231204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to a report that has just been handed to me. Within the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], in continuation of Islam's holy defense, the "Nasr-9" operations began in the general Hajj 'Umran region in Iraq's northeastern 'Irbil Province yesterday morning.

As a result of this operation, code-named Lord of the Pious, which was begun at 0430 by the courageous personnel of the IRI Ground Forces, four important, strategic heights—including the sensitive heights 2080, 2060, 1980, and 1985—were liberated. In the course of this operation, aimed at cutting the communications routes of the counterrevolutionary elements in the region and facilitating the struggles of the long-suffering and oppressed people in Iraq, the 3d Battalion of the 433d Brigade of the 23d Division of Iraq was completely destroyed. The 1st and 2d Battalions of the same brigade suffered 60- to 70-percent damage. More than 900 Iraqi soldiers were killed and 2,000 others wounded.

In the course of this operation a number of Iraqi soldiers were captured by the brave personnel of the Ground Forces, of which more than 50 were evacuated behind the front lines. The second in command of the 433d Brigade of the 23d Division and the commander of the 3d Battalion of the same brigade were killed.

As a result of the victorious "Nasr-9" operation and in continuation of the important series of operations carried out by the powerful forces of the IRGC and the IRI Armed Forces against the aggressive Ba'thist Army, more than 10 square km of Iraqi soil were liberated. Reports received from the operational theater indicate that various units of the 23d Division of the Ba'thist Army up to now have launched eight counteroffensives, all of which were severely quashed by the forces of Islam. They have now been forced to use counterrevolutionary elements in the region. The futile efforts of these mercenaries were also crushed and 150 of them were killed.

The legend-makers of the army of monotheism also succeeded in destroying a battery of 120-mm mortar launchers and a battery of 130-mm mortar launchers of the 909th Artillery Battalion, 5 tanks, 10 ammunition depots, and more than 40 enemy military vehicles. The ceaseless battle of the brave warriors of the IRI Ground Forces, aimed at achieving the preset goals of the operation, is continuing while the combatants of Islam maintain the upper hand.

### Communique No 3,029

*LD231720 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—Combatants of the Islamic Republic ground forces launched a blitz operations code-named 'Nasr-9' in Hajj 'Umran region northeastern Iraq Sunday. Details of the operations were reported by Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters earlier today, said a military communique here.

Communique No. 3029 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iranian naval forces checked five cargo ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday, but allowed them to sail on when their cargo and destiny were known.

In the southern fronts Muslim combatants halted Iraqi engineering activities in Nahr 'Anbar, Eynkhosh, Faqeh, Tayyebat and Hawr al-'Azim during artillery duels with enemy units, destroying several gun emplacements and watch posts, and killing five soldiers.

An Iraqi munition depot and over 10 gun emplacements were destroyed and a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded when enemy position were shelled by Gendarmerie forces on Sunday, the communique concluded.

### Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique

*LD231837 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] The Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center of operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, issued a communique tonight, the text of which is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to God—under whose undiminishing succor and assistance once again the victory of justice against injustice has been realised by your sons, the great ummah—another crushing blow has been delivered to the body of the mercenary Ba'th armed forces.

O courageous and committed nation of Iran! In order to continue the holy defense of the heroic ummah, to liberate the sensitive heights in the eastern regions of Iraq's Irbil Province to gain greater domination over positions of the feeble enemy, and to sever the routes linking counterrevolutionary elements in the region, at 0430 on 22 November, the brave fighters of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran launched the "Nasr-9" operations in the Hajj 'Umran sector under the holy codename "O Lord of the Pious" [ya mowla-ye mottaqian].

While gaining new victories, the fighters inflicted heavy losses and blows on the enemy forces. During these operations, which are continuing, the courageous fighters of the army of Islam have succeeded in capturing four strategic height, Nos 2080, 2060, 1980, and 1985, in the Hajj 'Umran sector. The Islamic fighters have killed more than 1,200 enemy troops, including the deputy commander of 433d Brigade from the 23d Iraqi Division, and have wounded over 2,800.

During these heroic operations, over 12 square km have been cleansed from the presence of Saddamist forces, and the brave fighters of the army of Islam have captured a number of enemy troops. So far 92 POW's have been transferred behind the frontlines. Other gains in these proud operations are as follows:

1. The total destruction of the 3d Battalion of 433d Brigade from the 23d Division of the Iraqi Ba'th Army. The battalion commander is among the dead;

2. A 70-percent destruction of the 1st and 2d Battalions and of the Commando Battalion of the same brigade;

3. A 20-40 percent destruction of the 431st and 437th Brigades, and of the 98th Brigade of the 23d Division;

4. The complete destruction of a 120mm mortar section;

5. The complete destruction of a 130mm artillery battery from the 909th Artillery Battalion;

6. The destruction of 10 ammunition depots, 40 vehicles of various sizes, 5 tanks, and 2 katyushas.

In continuation of these victorious operations, repetitive counterattacks by various units of the 23d Division of the Ba'th Army have been crushed by the brave warriors of Islam's army, and they have been forced to use mercenary counterrevolutionary elements in the region. However, the desperate moves of these hireling elements were also crushed and 150 of them were killed. Thanks to our forces' success in taking positions in the liberated heights of the Hajj 'Umran sector, a large area of Iraqi territory in this sector has come under the total control of the Islamic army's fighters. The army of Islam is continuing its relentless battle with superior firepower to gain the other predetermined objectives of these operations. Those who help God will receive his assistance and He will strengthen their steps. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters

### Counterattacks Foiled in 'Nasr-8'

*LD231439 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Nasr-8 Operational Region, Nov. 23, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants foiled two Iraqi counterattacks in the Nasr-8 operational region Monday, killing or wounding 450 more enemy troops. Two commando

battalions of Iraq's First Corps and the remnants of its Brigade 77 which took part in the counterattacks were completely routed. The Iraqi casualty toll is now well over 3,250 since the start of the operations last Friday in northeastern Iraq. Muslim combatants captured several more enemy troops and destroyed an enemy wireless set.

### Iraqi Counterattack Repulsed

*LD231850 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Nasr-8 operational region, Nov. 23, IRNA—Iranian Muslim combatants beat back yet another Iraqi counterattack launched by the enemy at 17:15 hours local time (13:15 GMT) in a vain bid to retake its lost positions in the Nasr-8 operational region.

Exchange of artillery fire is raging on between the Muslim combatants and Ba'thist forces in the operational region, where the remnants of the futile Iraqi attempt are being repulsed.

### IRGC Minister on Iraqi Casualties

*LD231905 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants killed or wounded more than 3,000 Ba'thist soldiers, captured over 200 others and liberated some strategic heights inside Iraq, in the course of the Nasr-8 operations launched Friday, said Minister of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust here Monday.

Speaking to a gathering of merchants, the minister said thanks to the people's all-out help, the Islamic Republic is not in need of any foreign aid. Iran does not even owe a single dollar to any country, said Rafiqdust noting, that in contrast the Iraqi regime has so far received an estimated dlrs. 185 billion from global arrogance and reactionary states, in a vain bid to avert its impending doom.

Fortunately Iranians realise that their help should continue as long as Islam and the Islamic Revolution are threatened by infidels, noted the IRGC minister reiterating, the imposed war will continue till the roots of aggression are weeded out.

### Bombers Pound Zobeydah Region

*LD240753 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—Iranian fighter bombers heavily pounded positions and concentration centers of the Iraqi troops in Zobeydah operational region at 08:10 hours local time (04:40 GMT) Tuesday. The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces in a statement said the Iranian planes, after inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the enemy, returned safely to their bases.

### Counterattack 'Heavily Foiled'

*LD241020 Tehran IRNA in English 0947 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] Nasr-8 Operational Region, Nov. 24, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants repelled another Iraqi counter-attack on strategic heights of Garderash Monday, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on the enemy. Two battalions of the Brigade 74 backed by Iraqi heavy artillery fire started the counter-attack which was heavily foiled.

### Iraqi Plane 'Downed' 24 Nov

*LD241054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Nov 87*

[Text] The joint staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that at 0905 this morning an encroaching Iraqi plane was the target of fire by an anti-aircraft defense unit of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and was downed. The report says no information is yet available about the fate of the pilot or the plane.

## Nepal

### Spanish Monarchs Arrive in Kathmandu 22 Nov

*BK221452 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Excerpt] Their majesties King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain were accorded a warm ceremonial welcome on arrival in Kathmandu today aboard a special aircraft on a friendly state visit to Nepal at the friendly invitation of their majesties the king and queen. Their majesties the king and queen welcomed their majesties the king and queen of Spain at the VIP hall of the Tribhuvan International Airport. [passage omitted]

### Minister on Strengthening Ties With USSR

*BK081515 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 28 Oct 87 pp 1, 5*

[Text] Minister for Communications, Works and Transport Hari Bahadur Basnet has said that Nepal and the Soviet Union which have different political and economic systems are nonetheless desirous of further strengthening their friendly relations on the basis of the United Nations Charter.

Minister Basnet made these remarks at a function organised here Tuesday to mark the 70th (seventieth) anniversary of the Great October Revolution of the Soviet Union.

Stating that relations between Nepal and the Soviet Union have been friendly since the establishment of diplomatic relations three decades ago, Basnet said that the exchange of visits at different levels have contributed towards increased understanding of each other's points of view.

Noting that the Nepalese people were engaged in the all-round development of the country under the leadership of His Majesty the King, the Minister said that the Nepal appreciates the cooperation extended by the Soviet Union in the fields of industry, transport, technical manpower and electricity.

He expressed the hope that the process of mutual cooperation will be promoted further.

Stating that His Majesty the King's proposal to declare Nepal a zone of peace reflects the Nepalese people's desire for regional progress and peace as well as peace and stability in the world, Basnet expressed the confidence that the Soviet Union will also extend its support to the Zone of Peace Proposal which has already received support from many friendly countries.

Lauding the progress made by the Soviet Union in the fields of industry, science and technology, research and other areas after the historical October Revolution which took place more than seventy years ago, the Minister wished the Soviet Union continued progress and prosperity.

Soviet Ambassador G.K. Shcheglov, highlighting the relations between the Soviet Union and Nepal, said relations between the two countries were friendly and characterised by similarity of views. There exist no questions nor differences between the two countries, he added.

The basis of our friendly relations is the almost identical view of both countries on matters of international interest and similarity of views on questions of war and peace. The Soviet Union honours and appreciates the peaceful foreign policy of Nepal, he added.

Referring to the Soviet Union's Great October Revolution, he spoke of reconstruction works going on in the Soviet Union and added that peace is of paramount importance even to the Soviet people for the rapid progress of its socialist society.

General secretary of the celebration committee Tirtha Duwal, in his welcome address, noted that Nepal-Soviet relations were healthy and stable.

From the chair, celebration committee chairman Ramhari Sharma spoke of the cordial relations between the two countries and hoped the Soviet Union would extend support to Nepal's Peace Zone Proposal.

### Foreign Ministry Asks India To Return Gold

*BK180717 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 18 Nov 87*

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 18 (AFP)—Nepal has demanded the return of more than 20 kilograms (44 pounds) of gold seized by Indian Customs officials from Gurkha soldiers on their way home to Nepal.

The Nepalese Foreign Ministry expressed its strong resentment over what it described as an unfriendly gesture by the Indian Customs and Excise authorities, and demanded the return of the gold, which represented the Gurkhas' life savings, an official source said Wednesday.

Indian Customs authorities in Calcutta on Monday seized the gold, valued at 400,000 dollars, from a British Army chartered Royal Nepal Airlines flight carrying Gurkhas from Hong Kong and Singapore when it stopped for refuelling, the source said.

The gold was taken from 80 Gurkhas who had either retired or who were still serving with the British Army, the source said.

The Indian authorities detained the aircraft for more than 20 hours, ransacked it and submitted all the Gurkha soldiers to a body search, the official source said.

The flight was bound for Kathmandu and India was not normally authorised to confiscate gold from Nepal-bound passengers in transit, he added.

A senior Commerce Ministry official said that seizure of gold or any contraband goods from Kathmandu-bound passengers transiting India was in clear contravention of the Indo-Nepal accord.

"If the incoming passengers bring contraband goods it is the responsibility of the Nepalese Government to take necessary action against the carriers after their landing in Nepalese soil," the official said.

Returning Gurkha soldiers are allowed to bring a certain amount of gold out of their foreign currency earnings back into Nepal.

About 7,000 Gurkha soldiers are serving in the British Army and more than 175,000 with the Indian Army.

All flights into and out of Nepal have to fly over Indian airspace.

## Pakistan

### President Backs Caretaker Government in DRA

*BK220752 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Nov 87*

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the success of next month's U.S.-Soviet summit will depend on what is decided about the Afghanistan issue. The future course of U.S.-Soviet relations will also depend on the settlement of this issue. In speaking with journalists in Islamabad, he said that he is convinced of the sincerity of the Soviet offer to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. Pakistan is prepared to offer its full cooperation in this connection. The president stated that he proposes that Soviet troops be pulled out of Afghanistan as soon as

possible and that this move be coupled with the establishment of a caretaker government there under the control of a UN peacekeeping force. The caretaker government, he added, would have to be headed by someone having the confidence of the mujahidin, Afghan refugees, and the present Kabul administration.

The president said he is happy that President Kurt Waldheim will start an official visit to Pakistan on 23 November. He added that after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979, Dr Waldheim—realizing the problems that this issue might create—arranged for assistance. He is among a select few who are committed to principles.

### Afghan Arms, Ammunition Seized in Bajaur

*BK210811 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 21 Nov 87*

[Text] Federal Interior Minister Malik Nasim Ahmad Ahirhas said that the incidents of bomb blasts in the country have decreased due to effective security measures. Talking to newsmen in Sargodha yesterday evening, he said a large number of criminals involved in subversive activities have already been arrested and will be dealt with according to the law.

Meanwhile, Bajaur scouts and Levy personnel have seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition, including heavy weapons, at two posts in Bajaur Agency. The Bajaur Agency political agent told Radio Pakistan's Peshawar correspondent that the arms and ammunition were being brought from Afghanistan into the agency. He said eight people have been arrested and investigations are underway. The seized arms include several artillery pieces, rocket launchers, bombs, Kalashnikov rifles, and mortars.

### President Praises Austria's Waldheim

*AU231816 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 21-22 Nov 87 pp 1-2*

[Gerhard Bitzan report: "Before the State Visit to Pakistan: Ziaul Haq Praises Waldheim"]

[Text] Islamabad—The Pakistani head of state Ziaul Haq gave a veritable hymn of praise for Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, whom he will receive on Monday [23 November] for a 3-day state visit. For 10 years in his function as UN secretary general, Waldheim, was a "top man with principles." Today he is a victim of Zionist propaganda, Ziaul Haq said in an interview with Austrian journalists.

Furthermore, the head of state demanded the immediate withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, accused Moscow of destabilizing Pakistan, and strongly denied that his country has the nuclear bomb.

In his emotional speech in defense of his state guest, Ziaul Haq pointed to Waldheim's two terms of office as UN secretary general: "At that time no Jew talked about Waldheim. Did the facts not exist then?" As Waldheim was particularly involved with the Afghanistan problem, the president invited him "to show that not only the Austrians who elected him appreciate him."

Ziaul Haq also referred to Austria with regard to resolving the Afghanistan problem. The Austrian model of neutrality is not applicable to Afghanistan, because the country, which is occupied by the Soviets, is not situated between two blocs—between East and West—but "only one, the East, the Soviet Union." He concedes to Kremlin chief Gorbachev—whom he calls especially clever, but also dangerous—that he wants to withdraw from Afghanistan, but only if the present Communist Party in Kabul continues to play a part and a future Kabul goverment is friendly to the Soviets.

Of course, the Afghans must solve the problem themselves. Ziaul Haq suggested a comprehensive national assembly: A quasi-democratic institution embodied in Afghanistan's tribal system could pass a consensus resolution on the formation of an interim government with the participation of all groups concerned. He could easily imagine former Afghan King Zahir Shah as the head of this government with the Soviet withdrawal controlled by UN troops and with elections to be held later.

In connection with Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan, the president said that Moscow wants to cause difficulties for his country in order to force it to adopt a more conciliatory attitude. He referred to heavy bombing attacks in several Pakistani cities which revealed the hand of the Soviet Committee for State Security and the Afghan Secret Service.

With regard to the accusations that Pakistan has an ambitious nuclear policy, Ziaul Haq said that his country has neither a bomb nor the intention to build one. "However, we have the technology." Pakistan's refusal to admit nuclear inspections is connected with the Indian-Pakistani love-hate relationship. "If the West demands inspections in India as well as in Pakistan, we will immediately say 'yes'". His country also suggested to India the establishement of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia. "But this was rejected as India sees itself as a mini-superpower."

In spite of this Ziaul Haq sees progress in the relations with its neighbor, "although we expected more of Rajiv Gandhi—who is, by the way, a nice man." Gandhi has always been very willing to compromise; afterwards, however, he has not kept his promises, "maybe because he has domestic difficulties."

With regard to the Gulf problem, Ziaul Haq is optimistic. He sees flexibility in Tehran, but the solution must come via the United Nations. The pressure on the war parties and simultaneous political initiatives must continue. "We are closer to a solution than ever before in the 8-year Gulf war."

Ziaul Haq has his own view on the subject of democracy. Islam is a practical religion which at the same time includes and demands everything: anything that could cause differences in the country—such as the dispute between political parties—should be avoided. Democratization is an evolutionary process which is slowly going on. "However, we are on the way to a democracy in the Western sense."

"In 1990 there will be elections with parties. The Parliament has decided this and I said in parliament: Good luck." However, Ziaul Haq admitted that he himself wants to rule without parties, "but I have not been very successful with the Parliament."

Disappointment Over Streicher's Absence [subhead]

The bilateral economic relations and the international situation—above all the Afghanistan problem—are at the center of the Waldheim visit. The visit will improve economic relations, according to Islamabad, where it was noted with regret that Streicher, the minister of nationalized industries, who was also invited to visit, is missing.

An important item remains: the signing of two contracts with the VOEST Company, which reportedly have been made possible only by the Waldheim visit. They concern a continuous casting plant near Karachi and the construction of pressure pipelines for the interior works in the world's first earth dam (total volume of the two projects: just under 500 million schillings). Follow-up orders are expected. However, the effect of the visit could be less than desired because Austria's credit policy is inferior to its West European competition with its more favorable credits.

## Reportage of Visit of Austrian President

### Receives 'Very Warm Welcome'

*BK230655 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Excerpt] Austrian President Waldheim was given a very warm welcome when he arrived in Islamabad this morning on a 3-day official visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. Those present at the airport to receive the distinguished guest included Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, federal ministers, ministers of state, Parliament members, diplomatic representatives, and senior officials. The airport ceremony included a 21-gun salute and a guard of honor presented by a contingent of the three armed forces. [passage omitted]

### Meets With Junejo

*BK240558 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Nov 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo met the Austrian President Dr Kurt Waldheim at the presidency in Islamabad this evening. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and the regional situation. They also discussed ways to strengthen and stabilize the existing friendly relations between the two countries. Austrian Vice Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Alois Mock and members of the delegation accompanying the Austrian president were present at this meeting. Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Wasim Sajjad and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani also were present on the occasion.

Ministerial level talks were held between Pakistan and Austria in Islamabad this evening when matters of bilateral interest, the regional situation, and international affairs were discussed in detail. The talks urged enhancing bilateral ties in trade and industry. At the talks, the Pakistani delegation was led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani and the Austrian delegation was led by Vice Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Alois Mock.

## Nepal Paper Interviews Prime Minister

*BK181330 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 31 Oct 87 p 3*

["Excerpts" from Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's interview with *The Rising Nepal* in Islamabad; date not given]

[Text] Q: You're leading the Pakistani delegation to the SAARC summit in Kathmandu. What importance does Pakistan attach to the forthcoming SAARC summit, Sir?

A: I had the opportunity of leading the delegation of Pakistan last year in Bangalore. That was the second summit meeting. I got the opportunity of attending the summit and meeting the leaders of the SAARC countries. This is the third summit we are having in Kathmandu. This is the first time that a formal meeting at SAARC headquarters is being held, because SAARC headquarters is in Kathmandu. You know generally the existence of the SAARC and the aims of SAARC. This is a forum actually, where leaders of the SAARC countries get together and discuss the issue of how to improve the lot of the common man in the respective countries and, generally, one gets the opportunity also to discuss the bilateral issues in informal meeting we hold there.

So this meeting is an important meeting. This is the third meeting we are going to attend and I look forward for the success of the SAARC meeting and to meet the leaders of the SAARC countries.

Q: What would you say, is Pakistan's policy towards SAARC?

A: Frankly, Pakistan is not there in SAARC because it has to be there, Pakistan is actively taking part in the SAARC organisation and especially the SAARC summits when they take place. Pakistan is keen to see that they should always arrive at a decision whereby the countries of the SAARC get the maximum benefits. We have evolved a system and agreed to proposals whereby we must improve the lot of the common man of our respective countries and where mutually we felt (about bilateral matters) these can be taken up. This could be done between the two countries like Bangladesh and India, India and Pakistan. Well, those items could be worked up by those countries and solutions could be arrived at and to take up those projects where both countries mutually agree for the benefit of the countries.

Q: Are you satisfied with the progress that the SAARC has recorded so far?

A: This is just a forum, a first meeting at SAARC headquarters. But I must say whenever such huge and big organisation takes place because today SAARC is considered one of those major organisations as you have NAM [Nonaligned Movement], OIC [Islamic Conference Organization], and you have the European Community. [sentence as published] So SAARC is also coming up with the level of seven respectable and independent nations which got together solely with the objective to improve the lot of their countrymen. So it has that position and we are seriously functioning to see how we have best and maximum cooperation between the countries would take place to improve wherever they feel that these should be made.

Q: In the light of the present situation within the region and outside including the world situation, what do you see as the most difficult challenge SAARC faces and what role can SAARC play in this regard?

A: Well, we have to see what are the items which are commonly affecting the countries and those items should be taken up. Now, if you recall, last year we had taken up drug trafficking. You know, drug trafficking is a problem especially in Pakistan, India and the rest of the countries of the SAARC. This is important if we can evolve a system whereby each cooperate to control drug trafficking. I think it would go a long way because our countries are known for this problem and effective steps have to be taken to monitor and control this thing. That's one of the major problems that we have before us. We're taking some steps. Well, the question comes to the second important subject, terrorism. Now, something must be done at the national level whereby now to effectively control terrorism in our countries. This issue requires, I must say, the concerted efforts and then proper planning, and coordination among the SAARC countries. I think some work is being done on that and I'm sure we will be able to deal with terrorism in our region.

Q: Are you satisfied with the outcome of the last round of talks on Afghanistan held in Geneva?

A: No, I'm not. To tell you frankly, this last Afghanistan round in Geneva was unscheduled. Because we did not expect it. You know, somebody asked me when will the next round take place. I said, now we're having General Assembly at the United States. So the talks could take place only after that. But, one fine morning I got a message that Kabul had intimated that in the next four days we must meet. So it was really a hurried proposal from Kabul. But I responded to that for the simple reason that since the United Nations was going to meet in the General Assembly and we must accept the offer to talk to them. So hurriedly we accepted the proposal and Foreign Minister of Pakistan went there. They had discussions. We were expecting that some proposal would come up. But nothing came up. The only new thing to come up was "we propose to decrease the withdrawal schedule from eighteen months to sixteen months". So we said to them, "let us be sincere to the problem. If you really want to solve it then give us a proposal which is acceptable". From that, I would say, this meeting was not a success as we contemplated that there was going to be some proposal which did not come up.

Q: When is the next round scheduled?

A: Well, very frankly, during the last meeting we have had with the Soviet Foreign Minister, it was indicated that now we will be having some talks on the subject in the near future. Let's see when the offer comes on the subject. Pakistan is always ready to discuss whenever there's a proposal on the subject.

Q: Regarding Afghanistan again, what problem is Pakistan facing because of the Afghanistan situation?

A: Frankly, Pakistan is facing a problem that is I have three million people on my soil. That is the problem of Pakistan. I want that these refugees should go back to their sweet homes. And, you know, the problem of Afghanistan itself consists purely of Afghani problem. My problem is that these refugees should go back and they say they are prepared to go back if Russian troops withdraw. If the Russian troops remain there these refugees are not going to go back to Afghanistan. These refugees should go back. As I earlier stated that the right of the people to determine their future, how they should be ruled is the choice of the Afghan people themselves. So I hope something would be done on that side by Afghan is. [sentence as published] My problem is that refugees should go back.

Q: Have you initiated any more on the Iraq-Iran war?

A: Well, on Iraq-Iran war, Pakistan is interested from the very beginning. I think you would recall that in the beginning of the war the OIC appointed a peace comittee. That let this peace committee of the OIC moved to Iraq and Iran, talked to them to bring about a settlement.

And in the peace committee we had the Pakistan representative. The President of Pakistan at that time represented Pakistan and they moved to Baghdad. They went to Tehran. They talked to the leaders and in the last three-four years I think the OIC peace committee has not been able to achieve the settlement. But anyway, Pakistan has always offered its services for bringing about a settlement, we are there.

Q: On Nepal-Pakistan relations, what in your opinion is the present state of our relations?

A: We have excellent relations with Nepal. Well, I must say, when I was in Bangalore last year I got the opportunity of meeting His Majesty the King and I was really pleased by his personal observations in which he gave an assessment about the region. And I find him an excellent person who is looking after the interests of Nepal and relations between the two countries have all along been very good. No extra comments which could be made because we have had excellent relations.

Q: Regarding our economic relations, actually, I don't think it has come up to the level that we expected it should.

A: I think you have a very important point. That's a fact. Because on the economic side the relations should have been better than what we otherwise have. Economically Pakistan and Nepal should have been much better. Of course, trade is not what one could probably desire. We have the ministerial conference meeting which will take place. So I think the third round is likely to take place on the subject. So if they can work out how better economically we can be closer to each other. I'm sure they will do something there. So that is the item that requires experts to sit together and evolve a system, having good relations, economically also we also could be better.

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